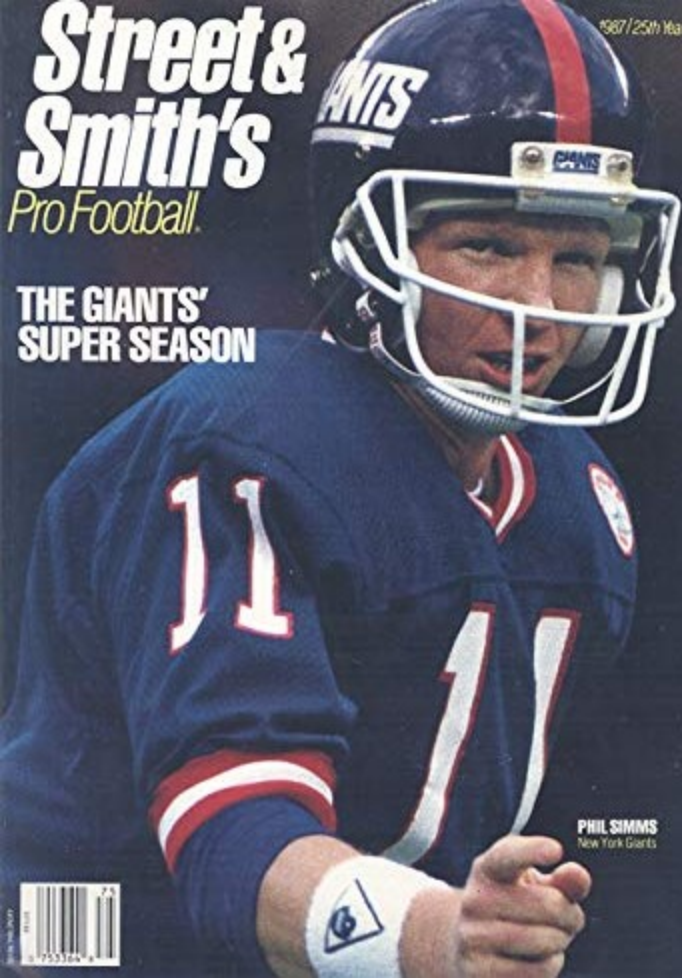


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THE GIANTS' SUPER SEASON



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New York Giants



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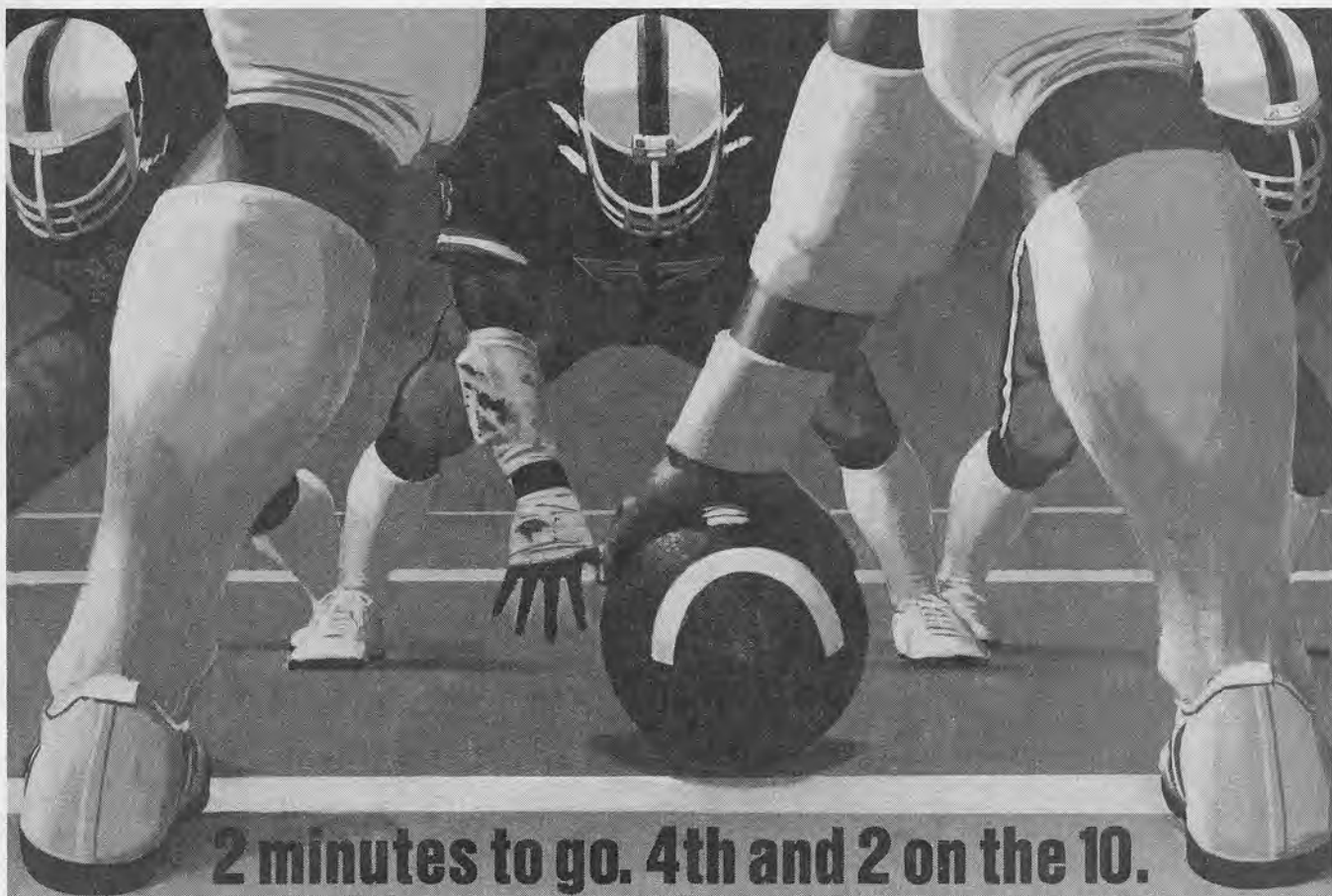


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25th year

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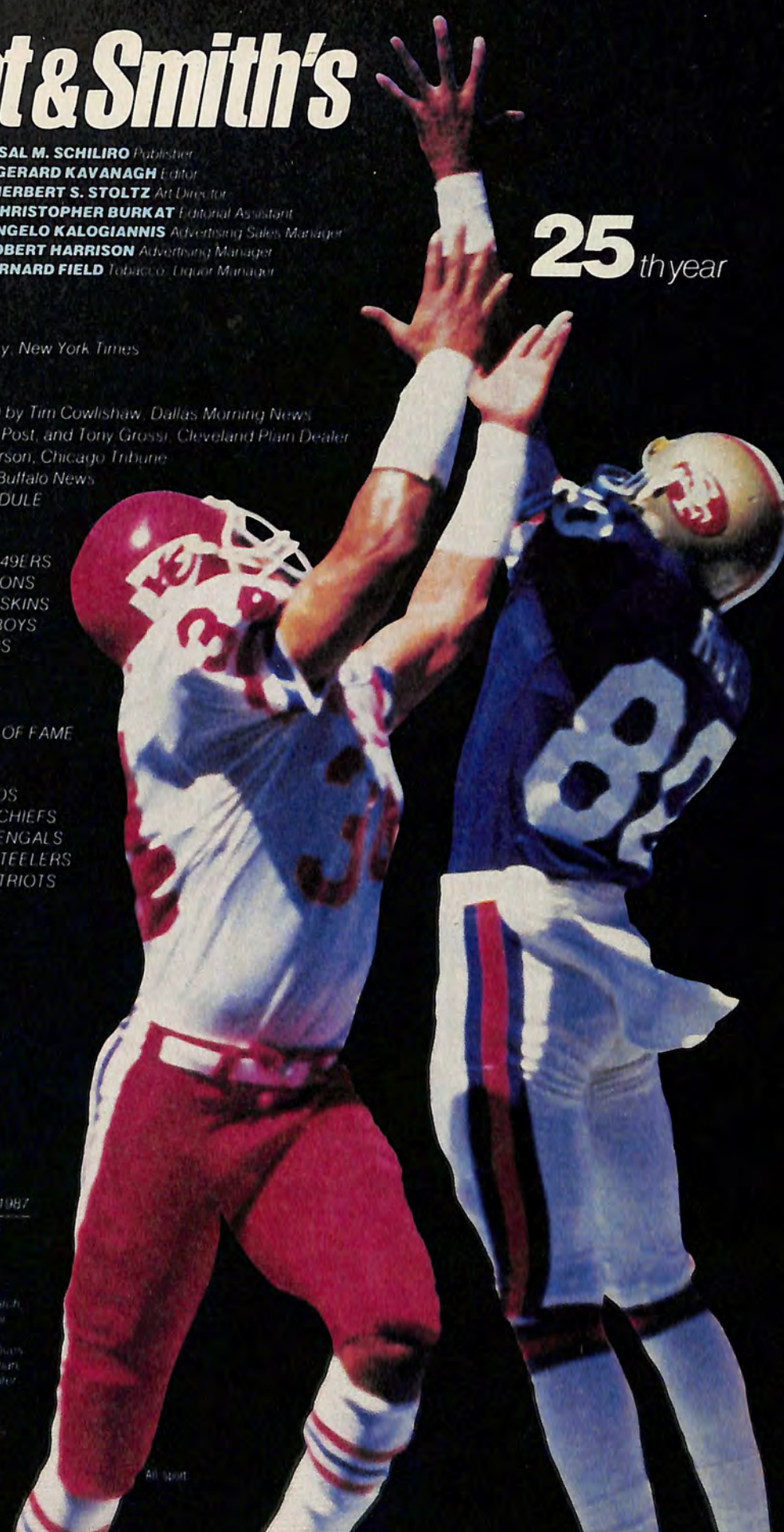
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Phil Simms kept his cool and his health during the championship run

by **FRANK LITSKY**
NEW YORK TIMES

Bryan Yablonsky

● It was the wee hours of the morning last September 9. On the showcase of Monday night football, the Giants had just lost their season opener to the Cowboys in Dallas, 31-28. The Cowboys scored one touchdown after Phil Simms, the Giants' quarterback, had fumbled away the ball on his 2-yard line. They scored another touchdown when their screen pass caught the Giants in a blitz. Then, with 76 seconds left in the game, the Cowboys fooled the Giants on a trap play, and the newest Cowboy, Herschel Walker, ran 10 yards for the winning touchdown.

Now the Giants' plane had started the long ride back to New Jersey. Coach Bill Parcells sat in a front seat, a drink in his hands, and stared straight ahead. For an hour, he said nothing. Finally, he turned to a Giants' official in the next seat. "I'm not embarrassed," Parcells said quietly. "I'm humiliated. This will never happen again this season."

He was right. The Giants were never again humiliated or even embarrassed. They won 17 of their 18 remaining games, losing only by 5 points to the Seahawks in Seattle. They finished the regular season with nine straight victories and a 14-2 record, the most victories in their 62-year history. They overran the San Francisco 49ers, 49-3, in their first playoff game. Next they manhandled the Washington Redskins, 17-0, for the National Conference championship. Then they routed the Denver Broncos, 39-20, in Super Bowl XXI as Simms completed 22 of 25 passes, the best passing performance in National Football League playoff history.

The Road to the Super Bowl

Eight seasons before, Giants' fans had rebelled because their team was playing so badly. Now the Giants had won their first NFL championship in 30 years, and in their first trip ever to the Super Bowl they had become champions. The reason were many:

- George Young, the vice president, general manager, and stabilizing force between two owners who did not talk to each other

- Parcells, who became the head coach almost by accident and who almost lost his job after a disastrous rookie season

- Simms, a quarterback alternately vilified as too fragile, too thick-headed, and too erratic

- A defense as good as any in pro football

- Good health, with Lionel Manuel and Terry Kinard the only injured players of consequence

- Chemistry, the secret ingredient of so many champion teams

The Super Bowl victory was the brightest moment in Giants' history. The darkest moment came in 1978 on a play remembered simply as The Fumble. As it turned out, that nightmare led to the present glory.

The Fumble came in a game in which the Giants were running out the clock on the Philadelphia Eagles. Joe Pisarcik, the Giants' quarterback, wanted simply to fall on the ball. Instead, he was told to hand it off to Larry Csonka. The handoff was fumbled, Herman Edwards of the Eagles scooped it up and ran for a touchdown, and the Eagles won, 19-17.

Those Giants were en route to their sixth straight losing season, and that was too much even for loyal supporters. Before the final home game, angry fans burned tickets. They hanged Wellington Mara, the Giants' president and co-owner, in effigy. And they hired a

continued

THE GIANTS' SUPER SEASON

GIANTS

small plane that flew over Giants Stadium during the season's final game pulling a banner that read: "15 Yrs. of Lousy Football. We've Had Enough."

Giants' management responded by firing John McVay, the head coach. Andy Robustelli, who ran the front office, departed as planned to return to his travel business, so the Giants needed a general manager and a coach. And Wellington Mara, who had been running the team by himself, suddenly found his nephew, Tim Mara, demanding input. Wellington owned 50 percent of the team. Tim's mother, the widow of Wellington's brother, Jack, owned the other 50 percent. Tim and his part of the family had been content to let Wellington run the show, but now they wanted a voice. Instead, they got an impasse.

General Manager George Young

When Wellington and Tim could not agree on a general manager, they asked Pete Rozelle, the NFL commissioner, for help. The man Rozelle nominated and the Maras accepted was Young, a former offensive tackle with the Baltimore Colts and assistant coach and executive with the Colts and then the Miami Dolphins. Young started his Giants' tenure with two highly successful moves. First, for the head coach, he picked Ray Perkins, the no-nonsense offensive coordinator of the San Diego Chargers. Then, with his first choice in his first draft, he took Simms, an almost obscure quarterback from an almost obscure college (Morehead State in Kentucky).

Since then, Young has made few bad moves. He made a good one in 1982 when, with three games left in the strike-shortened season, word leaked out that Perkins was leaving the Giants after the season to become head coach at his alma mater, the University of Alabama. Young faced a difficult decision. He was angry about Perkins's decision to break his contract and more angry about the timing, and his inclination was to tell Perkins good luck and goodbye. But Young feared that the players would let up for an interim coach in the last three games. And if he named a head coach for the next season and had him take over immediately, he feared that a losing record would lead to a losing attitude the next year.

So Young decided to have Perkins finish out the season. He also decided that continuity was important, so the new coach would have to come from the present coaching staff. Young picked Parcells, who was completing his second season as defensive coordinator. Perkins had given Parcells a more or less free reign with the defense and Parcells had done well with it. But Parcells had had only one year as a head coach—in 1978 with the Air Force Academy—and many good NFL assistants had stumbled when they became head coaches.

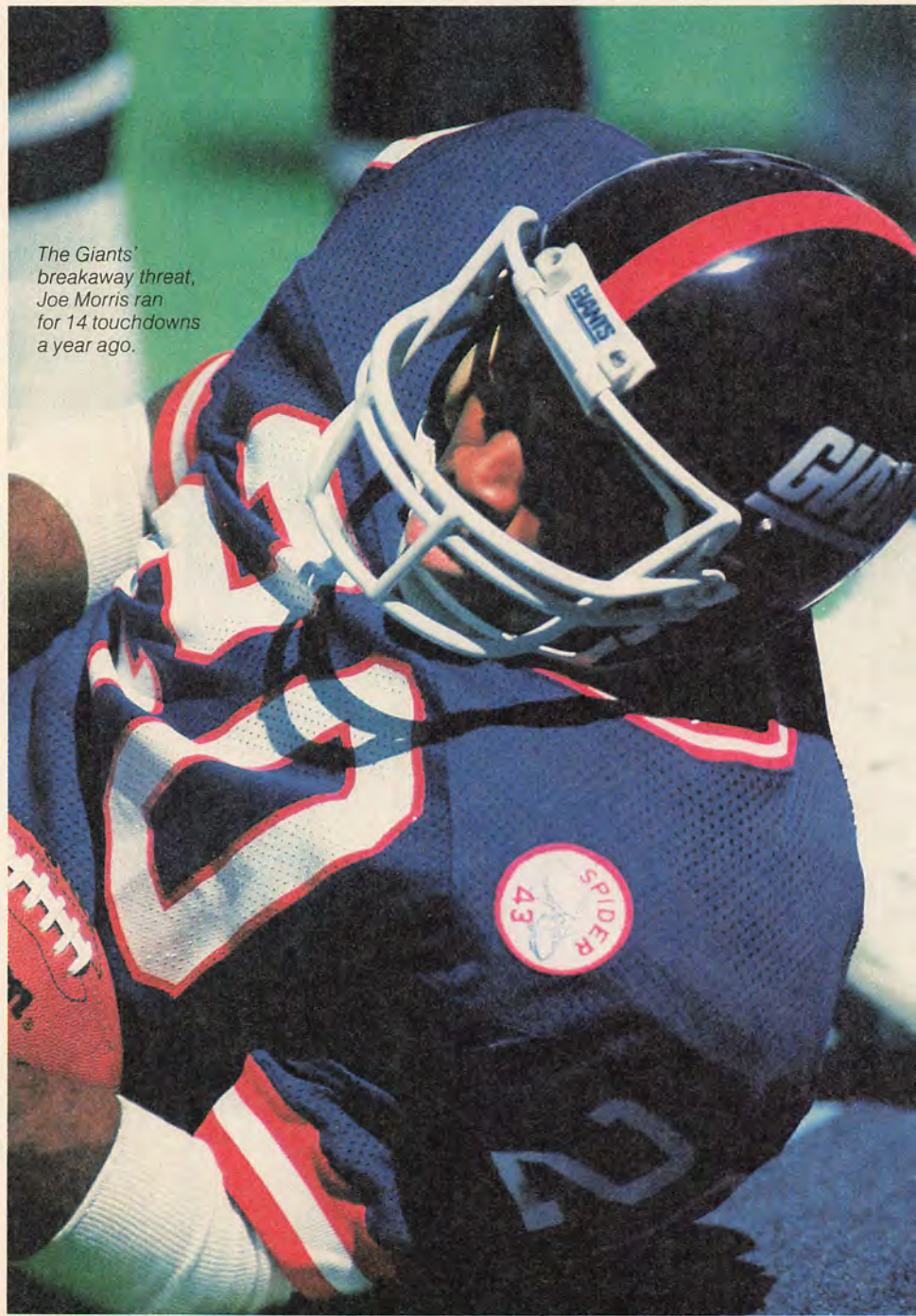
In his four seasons with the Giants, Perkins had improved the team. He had weeded out players who did not seem to care enough whether they won or lost. He had cut a few suspected of drug use. Parcells continued the remodeling job, but the obstacles almost did him in.

Head Coach Bill Parcells

In 1983, Parcells's rookie season as the Giants' head coach, 25 players went on injured reserve, and Simms, Harry Carson, and Rob Carpenter missed most of the season. Bob Ledbetter, the offensive backfield coach, suffered a fatal stroke. Doug Kotar, the running back who had retired two years before, died of a malignant brain tumor. Parcells's father and mother died. The Giants finished with a 3-12-1 record, and Parcells's job seemed shaky. Young supposedly offered it to Howard Schnellenberger, a former colleague who was then coaching the University of Miami in Florida. Young insisted he did not offer the job to anyone. Instead, he said, he feared Parcells would quit in disgust, and he wanted to know who would be available to replace him.

Parcells stayed, and the Giants improved year by year. In 1984, they were 9-7 and beat the Los Angeles Rams in the playoffs before losing to the 49ers, the eventual Super Bowl champions. In 1985, the Giants were 10-6 and beat the 49ers in the playoffs before losing to the Chicago Bears, the eventual Super Bowl winners. In 1986, the Giants were 3-1 in pre-season, 14-2 in the regular season, and 3-0 in the playoffs. There were perilous moments all season. Until December, the Giants seldom blew out an opponent. Instead, they nibbled their way through hairbreadth victories. For example, in the six weeks after their mid-October loss to the Seahawks, they beat the Redskins by 7 points, the Cowboys by 3, the Eagles by 3, the Minnesota Vikings by 2, the Broncos by 3, and the 49ers by 4. *continued*

The Giants' breakaway threat, Joe Morris ran for 14 touchdowns a year ago.



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Turning Point of the Season

On November 16, the Giants traveled to Bloomington, Minnesota, to play the Vikings. Though the Giants were 9-2 and the Vikings were struggling to make the playoffs, the Vikings' offense confused the Giants with misdirection plays and their defense kept Joe Morris from exploding for long runs. With 72 seconds remaining and the Vikings clinging to a 20-19 lead, the Giants were on their 48-yard line, facing fourth down with 17 yards to go. If the Giants failed to make a first down on the play, they would surely lose.

"I thought we were finished," said Gary Reasons, the Giants' linebacker.

Not quite. On the sideline, Parcells and two assistant coaches chose a pass play and ad-libbed by putting one potential receiver, Phil McConkey, in motion. McConkey distracted a defensive back long enough to allow Simms to complete a 22-yard pass to Bobby Johnson for a first down. With 12 seconds left, Raul Allegre kicked a 33-yard field goal, and the Giants won, 22-20.

The following Sunday against the Broncos, the Giants faced almost the same predicament. With 1:55 left, the Broncos tied the score, and then they seemed about to stop the Giants' comeback attempt. The Giants were on their 18-yard line, facing third and 22. anything short of a first down would give the Broncos the ball in good field position. The gods were with the Giants again. Simms passed 24 yards to Johnson for the first down, and one run and one penalty later he passed 46 yards to McConkey. With six seconds left, Allegre kicked a 34-yard field goal, and the Giants won, 19-16.

Phil Simms and Joe Morris

After that, the Giants won and won and won. Much of the credit belonged to Simms, a fighter who had persevered through one career crisis after another. Shoulder separations kept him from finishing 1980 and '81. A preseason knee injury wiped out the next year. A fractured thumb made him miss most of 1983. His mental toughness let him survive.

"I'm not injury prone," said Simms. "I've just had tough luck. I'm not quitting."

He did not quit. In 1984, his first year of full health, he broke many Giants' one-season passing records. In 1985 and 1986, he had big years, too, helped greatly by the Giants' resurrected running game.

For years, the Giants struggled on the ground. Then Morris, 5 feet 7 inches and 195 pounds, developed into one of the game's hardest runners. No back in the NFL got to the hole quicker, and few could cut back so quickly. And once Morris reached the hole, his hours in the weight room gave him the strength of a 250-pound fullback. Though he was not a gifted receiver and sometimes had problems picking up a blitz, he was a break-away threat every time he carried the ball.

The best Giant on offense might have been Mark Bavaro, the all-rookie tight end in 1985 and an all-pro in '86. The first thing Parcells and Young looked for in a tight end was blocking ability, and Bavaro was superb there. He could also catch passes in traffic and drag half of the defense with him, as he did on one memorable play against the 49ers. He played game after game with a broken jaw or a bruised ankle or a badly swollen toe. He was the strong, silent type, never complaining. He was, in Parcells's words, a lunch-pail player, a high tribute from a lunch-pail coach.

In general, the offense was often good. The defense was superb, and it was augmented in

an unusual way. Through a series of draft-day deals, the Giants ended up with six choices in the first three rounds. The team noted for defense then used all six choices on defensive players. It drafted, in order, Eric Dorsey (end), Mark Collins (cornerback), Erik Howard (nose tackle), Pepper Johnson (linebacker), Greg Lasker (safety), and John Washington (end). All contributed during the season, and Howard and Johnson especially appear to be stars of the future.

Defense

Week after week, the defense made things happen. The linebackers, the heart of that unit, were terrors. Lawrence Taylor, on the right outside, made all-pro and the Pro Bowl for the sixth time in his six-year career. Though



AP/Sport/16 Higgins

Tight end was a drag for Mark Bavaro (right); the defense soared behind a revitalized Lawrence Taylor.

Carson, on the right inside, turned 33, he was a Pro Bowler for the eighth time in nine years. Carl Banks, on the left outside, graded out the highest of any Giants' defender, and his teammates were angry rather than disappointed when he failed to make the Pro Bowl.

In previous seasons, Taylor had established himself as an all-time great—bigger, stronger, faster, quicker, and more talented than other linebackers. Offenses changed their game plans to stop him from decimating

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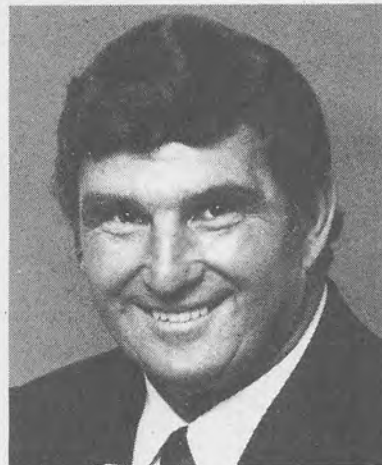
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the quarterback. Hardly anything could stop or even slow Taylor. Then something did. During the 1985 season, which was not one of his best, he said he was drinking too much. Then he started using cocaine. In the winter of 1986, with the urging and aid of Parcells, he entered a rehabilitation program in Houston. After that, many were ready to write off Taylor's career. Instead, he returned and played with his old-time intensity and intimidation.

Taylor was the first to say that an offense could take him out of a game if it wanted to badly enough, but if it overcompensated for him it would weaken itself elsewhere. And occasionally, he was neutralized, only to have Banks do the destruction. It was almost a case of choosing your poison. The New Orleans Saints concluded that the way to escape Taylor was to run to the other side of the field. But Taylor ruined that plan because he would sprint 30 yards laterally and stop the ball-carrier before he got past the line of scrimmage.

In training camp, the defensive line seemed in trouble when Curtis McGriff suffered a bad hamstring injury that put him on injured reserve for the season. In recent seasons, McGriff had alternated with George Martin at left end, the strong but slow McGriff playing in

GIANTS

running situations and the lighter but quicker Martin on passing downs. So the job fell full time to the 33-year-old Martin, and there were fears that he could not hold up. Instead, he thrived. Halfway through the regular season, in a game against the Cowboys, he continually baffled Phil Pozderac, the offensive tackle who tried to block him, and got by him for a last-minute sack that saved a 3-point victory for the Giants. Three weeks later, against the Broncos, Martin batted a pass by John Elway, caught it for an interception, and lumbered 78 yards for a touchdown that helped the Giants to another 3-point victory. In the Super Bowl, Martin's sack of Elway for a safety just before the end of the first half started the Giants rolling to a runaway victory.

All season, the Giants' defense was relentless and dangerous, especially to opposing quarterbacks. It left Danny White of the Cowboys with a broken wrist, Tommy Kramer of the Vikings and Ron Jaworski of the Eagles with injured passing hands, Joe Montana of the 49ers with a concussion, and Jay Schroeder of the Redskins with bruises all over.

"What is so good about their defense?" White said. "That is like saying what is so good about chocolate cake."

Good Health

While opponents suffered many injuries, the Giants suffered few. But their wide receivers were banged up all season, and at one point only three were available and none of them especially healthy. The only one who lost considerable time was Manuel, the best of the group. He sprained his left knee against the New Orleans Saints and missed the last 12 regular-season games. In the same game, Collins was returning a punt when he lost his helmet and was hit on the head. He suffered a concussion. Manuel, the backup punt returner, was unavailable. So the Giants had to replace Manuel as a receiver and Collins as a punt returner. McConkey, who held both jobs the year before, was one of the final players cut in training camp. The Green Bay Packers quickly signed him and then seemingly forgot him. So when the Giants offered the Packers a 12th-round draft choice to get McConkey back, the Packers grabbed it.

"It's like coming home again," said an overjoyed McConkey.

Two weeks before the regular season ended, Kinard, the most talented of the defensive backs, suffered torn ligaments in the left knee and underwent surgery. Herb Welch stepped in and filled the job. By Super Bowl time, Kinard was one of only seven Giants on injured reserve. Parcells told the seven he wanted them to share the glory and wanted them on the sideline during the Super Bowl, even if they were ineligible to play. When he learned he could not get sideline credentials for them, he had seven assistant coaches walk around without credentials and gave theirs to the injured-reserve players. That was typical of Parcells, a players' coach. He said he tried to talk to every player every day, even if it was only socializing. The players enjoyed that relationship, and they responded to his philosophies and his prodding and his support.

"He understands each position and personality," said Brad Benson, the Giants' Pro Bowl offensive tackle. "He loves being one of the boys. He can't resist getting into the jousting in the locker room."

"I love kidding around with them," said the 45-year-old Parcells. "It makes me feel 25 years old."

A Tradition Is Born

The public knew Parcells best as the coach who was doused with Gatorade after every victory. That started in 1985 after a bruising triumph over the Redskins. Parcells felt that for that game he needed even more aggressiveness than usual from Jim Burt, his emotional nose tackle. All week, he made Burt do extra work in the weight room, having him thrust dumbbells at imaginary opponents.

Burt felt he was being made a scapegoat, and he was angry. He vowed to show Parcells how well he could play, which was exactly what Parcells wanted. Burt played a superb game as the Giants won. Just before the final gun, Parcells sneaked up on Burt on the sideline, put a bear hug on him and said, "I got you ready, didn't I?" Burt said Parcells was holding him so tightly that he could hardly breathe, and for a moment he thought of punching his coach. Instead, he grabbed a half-filled bucket of icy Gatorade and poured it over Parcells. The other Giants froze, wondering if the coach would punch out Burt there or wait until after the game. Instead, Parcells grinned. If he could dish it out, he could take it. Thus was born a tradition.

No players would have dumped Gatorade on a Vince Lombardi. No one would have tried it with Tom Landry or Don Shula or Chuck Knox or Chuck Noll or most other coaches. But Parcells was different. He grew up in the shadow of what is now Giants Stadium, dreaming of coaching the Giants. Now he was coaching them, and part of him was still the little boy.

Most coaches know when it is best to run and when it is best to pass, when to gamble and when not. The secret of successful coaches, in football and in other sports, is handling athletes and getting them to believe in themselves and play their best. Parcells knew that and knew how to achieve that. He also knew how to get his players excited. Minutes before the Super Bowl, he told McConkey to lead the team onto the field and stir up the crowd. McConkey, emotional enough to start with, sprinted down the sideline, waved a towel to the crowd, and demanded a response. He put the Giants' loyalists in a frenzy, and they in turn stirred up their heroes.

Parcells also knew that some things were better handled by players than by coaches. When he had problems, he sometimes discussed them with Carson and Martin, two of his senior citizens and team leaders. He did not ask them to handle the problems. They just did it. Before the season began, Parcells suspected that one of his players was falling into bad habits after hours. He did not accost the player. Instead, he mentioned the subject to two older members of that players' unit. End of problem.

"I don't know that I'm a good coach," said Parcells. "If you win, you get to stay. If you lose, you go, so you just win. My players understand that. They know I will do everything I can to win."



BETWEEN THE LINES

● With this edition we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Street & Smith's Pro Football book. Since our first issue, in 1963, the game has seen a number of changes.

For one, it is much bigger. The National Football League now comprises 28 teams in the National and American Conferences. A quarter of a century ago, seven teams in each of two divisions existed. The American Football League, with a total of eight franchises, was beginning only its third year of operation. The seasons were shorter and less complicated then, too. In both leagues, the schedule consisted of 14 games, with the winners of each division squaring off for separate championships. No playoffs and no Super Bowl. Football was over by late December.

Twenty-five years ago, a couple of faces were not so familiar as they would become later on. Al Davis, a 33-year-old former assistant, was taking over the moribund Oakland Raiders, who had suffered through a 1-13 record the previous season. Likewise, another defensive-minded coach was trying to reverse his team's fortune and get the Dallas Cowboys to the .500 mark. Fellow by the name of Tom Landry. Jack Kemp, on the sidelines for most of 1962, "showed enough...to justify the belief that he can make the difference between a champion and an also-ran." That from our inaugural issue, but we were talking sports at the time, since congressman Kemp was then the quarterback of the Buffalo Bills.

Another quarterback, Len Dawson, had led the Dallas Texans to a 20-17 overtime victory over the Houston Oilers in the AFL title game in '62. The league's Player of the Year, Dawson would celebrate that anniversary in 1987 with his election to the Hall of Fame.

The NFL title game in 1962 matched the Green Bay Packers against the New York Giants for the second straight year. The Packers played error-free ball and prevailed, 16-7, thanks to the efforts of Bart Starr, Jerry Kramer, Jim Taylor, Paul Hornung, and others. A look at New York reveals similarities between that team and the victorious Super Bowl Giants of 1986-87.

Instrumental to the Giants's success in '62 was an impressive defense, which included linemen Andy Robustelli, Roosevelt Grier, Jim Katcavage, and Dick Modzelewski; linebackers Sam Huff, Bill Winter, and Tom Scott; and backs Erich Barnes, Dick Lynch, Jim Patton, and Allan Webb. Del Shofner (53 receptions for 1,133 yards and 12 touchdowns), Alex Webster (207 carries for 743

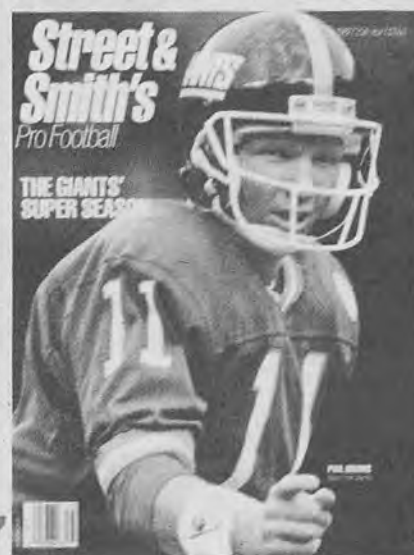
yards and 5 TDs), Frank Gifford, Joe Walton, and Joe Morrison supplied much of the offensive firepower. But essential to the Eastern champions was the play of quarterback Y.A. Tittle behind his line (Roosevelt Brown, Jack Stroud, Ray Wietecha, Darrell Doss, and Greg Larson), "whom many had tended to underrate as a unit," we had written. Tittle completed 200 of 375 pass attempts for 3,224 yards and a then-record 33 touchdowns. For that, he made the cover of our premier issue.

Last season, linebacker and NFL Player of the Year Lawrence Taylor led a swarming defense, which surrendered just three points in playoff victories over the San Francisco 49ers and the Washington Redskins. Joe Morris ran for 1,516 yards and 14 scores and Mark Bavaro developed into the league's best tight end. The offensive line of Brad Benson, Karl Nelson, Bill Ard, Chris Godfrey, and Bart Oates became a steady unit. But the key to the Giants was and is quarterback Phil Simms. He enjoyed some memorable clutch moments in a brilliant season, then followed with a near-perfect effort (22 completions in 25 attempts for 268 yards and three TDs) in the 39-20 triumph over the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl, in which he was named the MVP. The Giants seemingly are deep in almost every area, having improved their receiving corps via the college draft. Simms, however, remains the one indispensable player. He is our cover subject this year.

In 1963, Tittle broke his own record with 36 touchdown passes and the Giants won a third consecutive Eastern flag before bowing to the Chicago Bears in the championship match. In 1987, the Giants begin defense of their title in the first Monday night game of the season, in Chicago against the Bears, the 1986 Super Bowl winners.



1987





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Letters



■ I have always looked forward to the start of a new baseball season, and I have enjoyed reading your annual yearbook. However, I must convey my disappointment after looking at the cover of the 1987 issue. Wally Joyner is a good choice for the cover. But... why not a picture of either American League Rookie of the Year Jose Canseco or National League Rookie of the Year Todd Worrell?

JIMMY OBERPRILLER San Bernardino, CA

■ I would like to point out an error in your latest baseball issue. In the 1986 NCAA Statistics, my name was left out of several of the hitting categories. Being an avid fan and

reader of your magazines, needless to say I was very disappointed to be overlooked.

In 1986, I was a senior at Virginia Military Institute (Division I), where I batted .446 (66 for 148), hit 14 HRs (.359/game), had 62 RBIs (1.59/game), and had a slugging average of .865. I am enclosing an article from *USA Today* to confirm my statistics. Thank you for a great sports magazine, but I felt it necessary to point out the error.

GREG WEDDLE Blacksburg, VA
Mr. Weddle's name was omitted from the copy of the final statistics we received from the NCAA.

■ After reading your 1987 National League West predictions and rereading the 1986 predictions in the same league, I only have one question: Who named Maury Allen your baseball expert?

I refer to the complete write-off of the San Francisco Giants in the [Street & Smith's Baseball] 1986 review and the slightly optimistic outlook for these same Giants in 1987. Tell me: How does a team go from "It would take 10 years for the Giants to become a contender" to "...the Giants could walk away with the division race"? These are direct quotes from, respectively, your 1986 and 1987 previews.

I've been a Giants fan ever since Orlando Cepeda took Don Newcombe downtown in

the old Seals Stadium in the third game of the 1958 season. It's obvious Mr. Allen is fond of San Francisco. But why should a professional sports writer dump on the team because of his disappointment in its performance? No Giant fan has pleasant memories from the 1973-84 seasons and none of us really expect the Giants to win the West with so many question marks. But we'll take what comes along—probably third place behind either Cincinnati and the Dodgers or Houston and Cincinnati—and look to 1988 for the [Al] Rosen/[Roger] Craig chemistry of pitching acumen, continuing attitude adjustments, and the blossoming of [the] youngsters to form the basis of a team that can not only take the West with respect but also challenge the Mets for the right to represent the National League in the '88 World Series.

TONY ONEILLION Pearl River, LA

■ Congratulations on your great 1987 Street & Smith's baseball yearbook. I look forward to your editions all year round. However, could you please tell me how I could purchase regional issues other than the one on sale here in Canada. The Jesse Barfield cover is wonderful, but I am interested in obtaining the other issues with Roger Clemens, Mike Scott, Wally Joyner, [Gary Carter and Jesse Orosco, and Joe Carter].

JEFF SIM Toronto, ONT



■ I am a reader of your interesting and famous magazines. I am especially fond of your basketball issue. I feel somewhat melancholy that there was no recognition given to those basketball players of colleges that are not widely recognized. I feel that the best basketball player, at least one, of every college should have been given recognition regardless of the college's reputation. Maybe there is something you can do to commend unknown basketball players from colleges like Ramapo, Upsala, Jersey City State, Bloomfield, and a few others in New Jersey.

GRACE ORELLANO New York, NY

■ Just a little note thanking you for your fine coverage of the Navy basketball program and, in particular, center David Robinson on the front cover [Eastern edition]. Street & Smith's magazine is widely recognized as one of the finest of its kind in circulation, and we appreciate your accurate detail.

VINCE BENIGNI

Assistant Sports Information Director
U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD

■ I am writing in regard to Street & Smith's College Football. Having discovered this publication just last year, I think of it as a must-buy before future football seasons. Nowhere else can I find as much information on all Division I-A and I-AA schools. I would like to see Street

& Smith's expand to include complete coverage of NCAA Divisions II and III, and possibly NAIA divisions. I would appreciate your serious consideration of this idea. I find college athletics to be infinitely more interesting than their professional counterparts.

RICK TILTON Columbus, OH

■ I have religiously bought your magazine for about six years now. References were constantly made, especially during college basketball signing periods. However, I now question your credibility. How could you ever have left Byron Larkin of Xavier University in Cincinnati off your High Honorable Mention list for All-America? From the looks of the list, you really blew it.

TIMOTHY KUEHNER Minster, OH

■ I want to thank Dave Krider for the honor of being named High Honorable Mention in your high school basketball All-America listings. I also had the honor to play with a great number of your selected high school standouts at the Nike camp at Princeton.

LYLE MOUTON JR. Lafayette, LA

■ May I ask you people why you left Andy Van Slyke off the Cardinal roster?

RAYMOND NICKEL Pacific, MO

St. Louis did not include him on the team's 40-man roster.

■ I am writing to tell you I think you have only one division winner right (Kansas City Royals). Here is how I think they will finish: Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Toronto, and Kansas City. I had the advantage of knowing Philly added Parrish and Cowley.

DAN GIRARD Manitowadge, ONT

■ I was slightly upset with your article on "The Year of the Rookie." You gave a lot of history on Canseco, Incaviglia, and Snyder, but you forgot... Barry Bonds. He had a great season and you made him look like he was the worst of the rookie class.

WESLEY BROWN Parma, OH

Barry Bonds received 4 votes in the National League election after hitting .223. We quoted a prominent N.L. scout as saying Bonds has the potential to be "outstanding."

■ Of the preseason college football yearbooks, yours is the only one that lists defensive and offensive statistics. You limit these stats to the top 20 in each category. Possibly a more encompassing format would be to list the stats with each divisional section.

RANDY GROSS New Cumberland, PA

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TONY DORSETT'S LONG-PLAYING RECORD

With 11,580 yards after 10 years in Dallas, Tony Dorsett could pass Jim Brown as pro football's No. 2 runner.

● How's that song go? "They say that trading up is... hard to do."

Something like that. The Dallas Cowboys know all about it. None of their efforts to move into the top rounds of the draft the last few years have met with any success. It all goes back to 1977. The one-year-old Seattle Seahawks were badly in need of able bodies and saw what looked like a chance to get rich quick by trading their first-round pick to Dallas for its first-round pick and three second-round choices. Who could say no to a four-for-one swap, right?

Seattle traded one of those picks to get two more players, making it in effect a five-for-one deal. And so it was that the Seahawks acquired Steve August, Tom Lynch, Terry Beeson, Geoff Reece, and Peter Cronan. Dallas merely picked up Tony Dorsett in the first round and a Super Bowl trophy the following January. No one has cared to peddle a No. 2 pick in the draft to the Cowboys since. Even though the trade was largely regarded as a Cowboy coup from day one, few football experts expected the 5-11, 185-pound Dorsett to be blasting off tackle into the late 1980s.

"You really don't think that way when you draft a guy," Dallas coach Tom Landry said. "Tony felt like he would play for five years then. This has been a continuing controversy for years here—how much we run him. I always considered his size, and I wanted him to play as many years as he could. I didn't want to run him 30 times a game, but I don't know if that was right or not."

Only twice has Dorsett carried the ball 30 times in a game for Dallas, a fact that miffed him more than once early in his career. But the important thing is that his career continues. Last year only two of his elders, Kansas City's Mike Pruitt and New York Giants' reserve Tony Galbreath, were among the league's active running backs. And although he endured his least productive season as a pro in 1986, Dorsett's output of 748 yards rushing—his first sub-1,000-total in a full season since junior high—had more to do with injuries to both of his knees and a substandard offensive line than it did to any loss of skills or quickness. His 4.1-yard average was not that far from his 4.4 career mark.

The big difference in 1986 was his inability to break loose for a big gain. His longest run was 33 yards. A sprained left knee suffered in the season opener slowed Dorsett right from

the start and later, while trying to protect his injured knee, he twisted the right one. In March, he underwent arthroscopic surgery on both, then quickly became a permanent fixture in the club's training room. After going through an offseason program he describes as "sometimes lonely as hell," a healthier, more muscular Dorsett emerged. Now he will attempt to rebound from his and the Cowboys' most frustrating year ever.

"I'm facing one of the biggest obstacles of my career. That's the injuries. Coming back from arthroscopic surgery on both knees is no doubt a challenge, something I'm not accustomed to," he said.

Landry isn't used to worrying about his tailback spot, either, but he doesn't sound overly concerned about Dorsett's return. "I don't think there's any question about him. They didn't take enough out of the knees to really hurt him. He should be O.K. and ready to go," he said. "And before he was hurt, he was running better than I've seen in a long time. The explosion he had was just incredible."

Dorsett's first real explosion in 1986 came in training camp—the day the Cowboys signed Herschel Walker to a five-year, \$5 million contract, making Dorsett the second-highest paid Cowboy. He talked of becoming a "disruptive force," then apologized a day later for his outburst. But the wounds to his pride remained. Those quickly were forgotten when real wounds took hold in the season opener, knee problems that never fully went away.

"My confidence was very low last year from the simple fact that I knew I was limited. You talk about being one-dimensional. I couldn't stride out or make cuts; I was pretty much just a straight-ahead runner," Dorsett said. "It was a completely different feeling, one that I don't want to go through again. Two years ago, I had the broken wrist and I couldn't carry the ball with my right hand, couldn't fight off defenders. But I could deal with that easier than having my knees messed up."

"Like I've said before, these are my wheels. Right now I've got a slow leak. If they go flat on me, there's no way I can maneuver. Even though it wasn't major surgery, still yet it requires rehabilitation. It's a long, hard road and I'm on that road right now. My attitude is such that I'm going to come back in the best possible shape Tony Dorsett can be in."

"Whether Tony's knees have slowed him down, we'll have to wait and see," Landry said. "When you get into your 30s, you can

slow down in a hurry. But I think he's got a good year or two left."

And for the first and last time in his career, Dorsett in 1987 will wear his age (33) on his jersey. "I haven't given it much thought but I never thought I would be around long enough to wear my age for my number," said Dorsett. "I know that the time is coming, and the years are becoming numbered. I have three years left on my contract and I still feel I have three good years left. Then I don't think I'll want to play after [that]. After 35, there would be no point. But I'd like to finish my career like I started—healthy and on top of my game."

Dorsett started his pro career on the Cowboys' bench. Not until the second half of his rookie season did he win a starting job. But from that point on, he developed into one of the league's most dependable and durable backs as he climbed the league's rushing ladder. His string of 94 consecutive starts came to an end in the fourth week of the 1986 season when a sprained left knee kept him from making the trip to St. Louis. Yet even as he missed two more starts and parts of other games, Dorsett in his 10th season moved past rushing totals established in 11 seasons by O.J. Simpson (11,236 yards) and in 14 seasons by John Riggins (11,352). Dorsett pointed out why it meant so much more for him to step past Simpson than Riggins.

"I was an O.J. fan. I watched O.J. run against the Steelers in Pittsburgh once when I was in college. He was just such a smooth runner, a tall, graceful back. It's just like with a Muhammad Ali or a Joe Frazier. Which one do you enjoy watching? I looked at O.J. as the Muhammad Ali of running backs."

"It's nothing against Riggins or Franco [Harris]. They were great backs and did great things for their teams, but how long did Riggins play—14 years? You look at Riggins once again like Joe Frazier. His was just one of those styles that was not very memorable as far as I was concerned. Yeah, he got tough yards for you, but you've got backs now who get the tough yards and are graceful. They do things your grandma can appreciate."

It's not hard to appreciate what Dorsett has done for Dallas the last 10 years. With 11,580 yards, he is within reach of the No. 3 position held by Harris (12,120). Then comes Dorsett's final, and for him, most satisfying hurdle: the No. 2 mark (12,312 yards) held by Jim Brown. Dorsett has said he is more than willing to concede first to Walter Payton and his 16,000-plus yards.

"I know I'll never catch Walter Payton. I don't want to say he amazes me, but Walter's going to put a number up there so high it may be impossible for anyone to surpass him. But if I don't pass Jim Brown this year, something is wrong," said Dorsett, who needs 733 yards to move into second. "That's going to be no

continued on page 121

by TIM COWLISHAW DALLAS MORNING NEWS





Mitchell B. Reibel

by **KEVIN SIMPSON**
DENVER POST

COMING

Four years after being chosen first among the quarterback prodigies of 1983, John Elway directed the Denver Broncos to the AFC championship.

● In the late summer of 1986, any conjecture that the Denver Broncos might end their season in Pasadena began and ended with the same two words: John Elway.

For the orange-tinted faithful along the Front Range, an appearance in the Super Bowl seemed only a question of maturity, of a young quarterback realizing his potential and fulfilling expectations. Which was to say, it was a question of Elway performing at the superhuman level always hinted at but never quite achieved in three previous seasons.

It happened. Almost four years after being chosen first among the quarterbacking prodigies of 1983, the football career of John Elway came to fruition. That it did not ripen as quickly as Dan Marino's and Tony Eason's or pay the instant gaudy dividends of Jim Kelly's or Ken O'Brien's made no difference to the 63,000 Broncomaniacs who gathered at Mile High Stadium in late January to see their team off to the Super Bowl.

The season began with Elway on the receiving end of a touchdown pass against the Los Angeles Raiders in the first game. It ended, for all intents and purposes, with Elway's 98-yard real estate acquisition against the Cleveland Browns that in Denver will forever be known simply as The Drive. The Super Bowl, a disappointing 39-20 defeat at the hands of the New York Giants, represented just the promise of more to come. But everything that happened leading up to that sunny afternoon in Pasadena seemed merely to fulfill a four-year-old prophecy: A quarterback would rise up and lead them.

He was engaging in some gallows humor at the time, but Bronco guard Keith Bishop uttered the prophetic words of the season while standing at his own 2-yard line, his team just five minutes from playoff elimination. "We've got 'em right where we want 'em," he said.

The Broncos trailed Cleveland, 20-13, with what looked like miles of frozen turf in front of them. Later, writers waxing poetic after viewing videotape from the final minutes of regulation time liked to point out the determination in Elway's eyes in the close-up shots. They noticed a will to win, a calm confidence that surely marked his rite of passage into the realm of today's premier quarterbacks. To Elway, his performance constituted a normal reaction under extraordinary circumstances.

"The game wasn't over," he explained. "I'm not saying I knew when I went in there we were going 98 yards, but I also didn't say there was no way we can win this game. But you know, we'd had drives late in games and come back and won before. Like against Kansas City my third year, when I threw the five picks in one game and we still ended up beat-

continued on page 118

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

OF AGE

In only his second professional season and his 28th NFL start, Bernie Kosar led the Cleveland Browns to the brink of the Super Bowl.

● A sunny April day in Cleveland. Three months have passed since the emotional roller coaster jerked wildly off its track. Bernie Kosar, the cool engineer of the city's football joy ride, is having lunch at his favorite Italian restaurant.

"Have you thought much about it, the Denver game?" he is asked.

The 23-year-old quarterback prodigy of the Cleveland Browns paused. "Probably every day in the offseason," he says. "It'll probably never be out of my system."

Images of that American Conference championship game were still fresh in his mind: Browns up by seven... down by three... even at the half... Kosar and Brian Brennan hook up for a 48-yard touchdown... Browns up by seven with five minutes to play—five minutes from their first Super Bowl, then 37 seconds!

Then it vanished, the ride, into a tunnel of darkness. Another "franchise quarterback," by the name of John Elway, raced his Denver Broncos 98 yards for a touchdown to tie with 37 seconds left, and then 60 yards in overtime for the derailing field goal. Denver 23, Cleveland 20. But unlike a year earlier, when the Browns had blown an 18-point lead in a first-round playoff loss to the Miami Dolphins, the championship-starved Cleveland fans didn't stomp their feet and scream in anger. They stood and cheered as Kosar and his teammates trudged off the field.

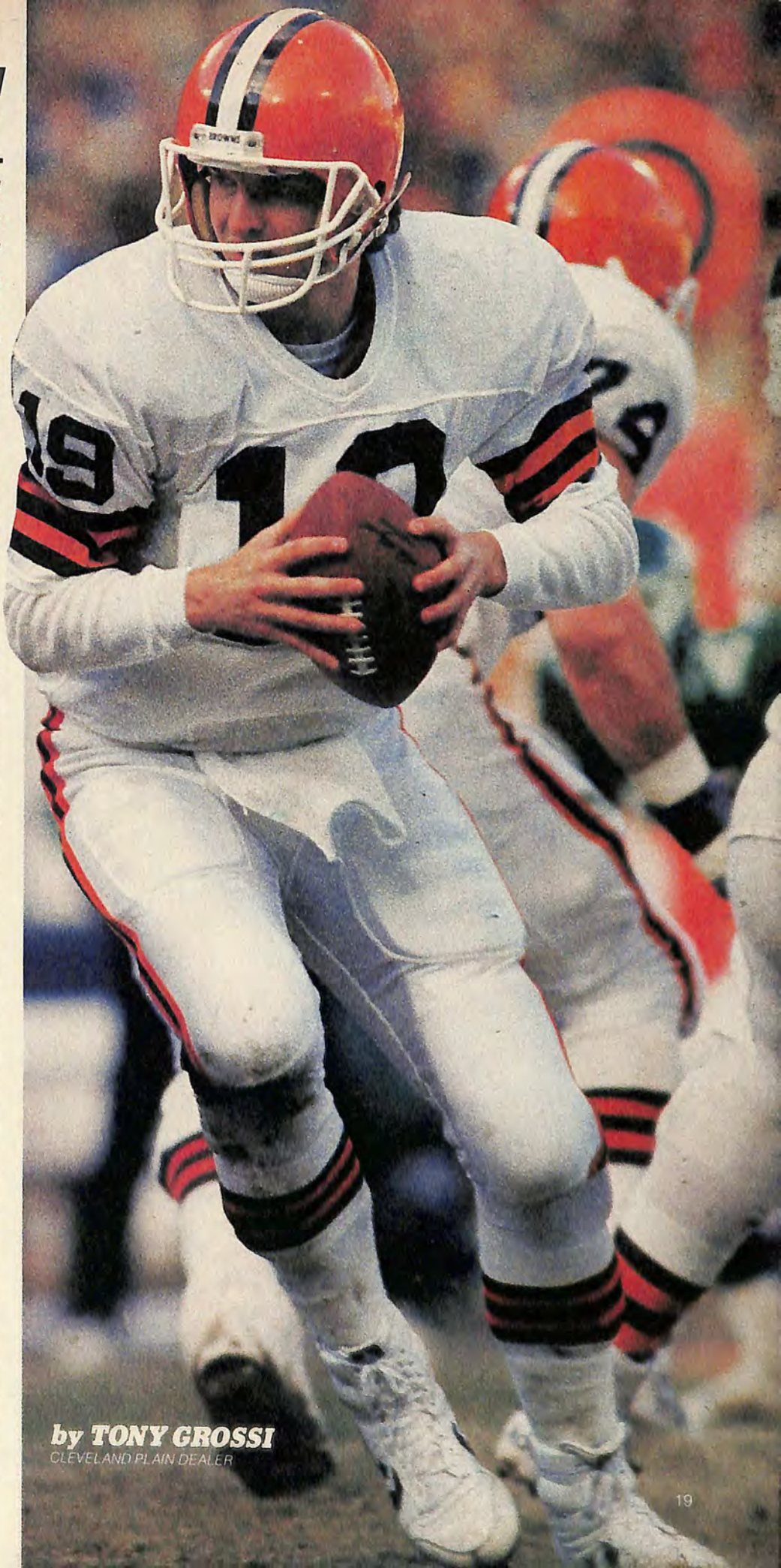
There really was light at the end of that tunnel. No quarterback had taken a Cleveland team so far since Bill Nelsen in 1969. Kosar was six years old then and lived 75 miles to the southeast in Boardman, a suburb of Youngstown. The kid inherited a rooting interest in the Browns from his dad, Bernie Sr. He dreamed of someday playing for the Browns in huge Cleveland Stadium with a championship on the line. The dream followed him to the University of Miami, where he crammed in 22 Hurricane passing records and one national championship while graduating—with a degree in economics and finance—one year ahead of his academic class. Kosar left behind two years of playing eligibility so that he could slither through a National Football League loophole and join his favorite team via the 1985 summer supplemental draft.

So there he was last January inside the mammoth stadium off Lake Erie, living out a kid's dream before he really had time to grow up. Now he was talking like an adult again.

"It's healthy to rehash it," Kosar said. "You try to learn from it. It's really a good experience to play in a game like that. Obviously, we still should have won. I don't really second-guess calls or decisions. I look back on how and why I reacted and did what I did."

continued on page 120

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL



by TONY GROSSI
CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

SEAGRAM'S 7 AND 92°



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America's Good Time Spirit.



by **DON PIERSON**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

IN THE SHADOW OF THE STARS

*Some players
excel in the shadow
of their more famous
teammates.
Here are the best
of those
unsung heroes.*

CARL BANKS

IN THE SHADOW OF THE STARS

● The word "underrated" can be overrated. Often it is merely a euphemism for "below average." If you can't say anything good about a player, you can always mention he is underrated.

Carl Banks, *linebacker*

New York Giants

Good football players are more apt to be overshadowed than underrated. Giants' linebacker Carl Banks never was underrated by coaches and players he faced. But he has been overshadowed by Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson, who happen to play the same position for the same team in a city that ought to be big enough for all three. Think of poor Gary Reasons, the fourth wheel on the New York linebacking bicycle apparently built for two. Banks was the third player selected in the 1984 draft and the first defensive player. Underrated is inaccurate. Underpublicized is more like it. Inside football circles, Banks is not underappreciated. On the chalkboard, the X coaches draw for Banks is just as big as the one they draw for Taylor.

Teammates who excel at the same position have the biggest gripe about being overlooked. Although football is the ultimate team

sport, football fans and the media feel compelled to single out individuals. It is not enough to extol the best defensive backfield; someone has to be the best defensive back.

The Chicago Bears were a year ahead of the Giants in Super Bowl victories and overshadowed players. While Mike Singletary already had established himself as the best middle linebacker in football by 1985, left linebacker Otis Wilson finally gained overdue recognition with a Pro Bowl berth. But young weakside linebacker Wilber Marshall was called by teammates and coaches the key to putting the Bears' defense over the top in 1985. By 1986, Marshall displaced Wilson in the Pro Bowl although all three linebackers had outstanding years and saw themselves not as individuals but a chain only as good as the weakest link. They failed to become the first linebacking trio since Jack Lambert, Andy Russell, and Jack Ham of the Pittsburgh Steelers to go to the Pro Bowl as a unit.

In 1984, the entire defensive backfield of the San Francisco 49ers ended up in the Pro Bowl after cornerback Eric Wright joined teammates Ronnie Lott, Carlton Williamson, and Dwight Hicks as an alternate. The irony was that Wright had enjoyed the best year of the four, but he was unrecognized by the voters. Lott was so embarrassed he threatened a boycott.

As Banks receives his recognition as a premier linebacker, it will undoubtedly come at the expense of a teammate, probably the aging Carson.

There are various other reasons for the spotlight skipping over good players. There

are cornerbacks overshadowed by safeties and safeties overshadowed by cornerbacks. There are inside linebackers overshadowed by outside linebackers and guards overshadowed by tackles. Small cities are overwhelmed by big cities and young stars have to wait for old ones to retire.

Here is a look at some of the best of the players whose contributions are noticed the least.

Albert Lewis, *cornerback*

Kansas City Chiefs

Chiefs' safeties Deron Cherry and Lloyd Burruss both were voted to the Pro Bowl last season by American Football Conference players—Cherry for the fourth time and Burruss for the first. Cherry had nine interceptions and scored two touchdowns by recovering blocked punts. He finished second on the team in tackles. Burruss had five interceptions and returned three for touchdowns. A third Chiefs' defensive player, nose tackle Bill Maas, joined the safeties in Hawaii for the Pro Bowl. Meanwhile, who was voted the most valuable player on the Chiefs by his teammates?

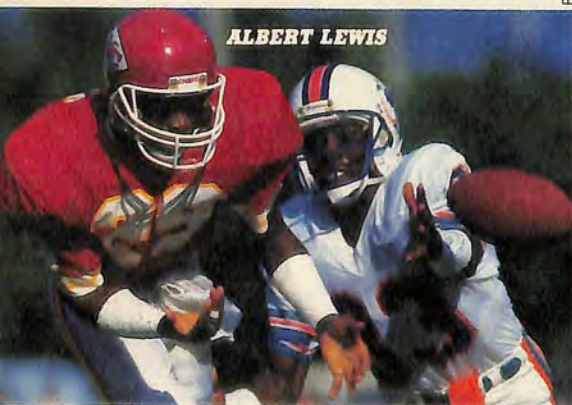
Albert Lewis, who intercepted four passes and blocked four punts during a spectacular year. Against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the regular-season finale that put the Chiefs into the playoffs, Lewis blocked a punt, recovered a fumble, intercepted a pass, knocked down two other passes, and made seven tackles in the Chiefs' 24-19 victory.

Lewis is overshadowed not only by teammates Burruss and Cherry, but by famous Los

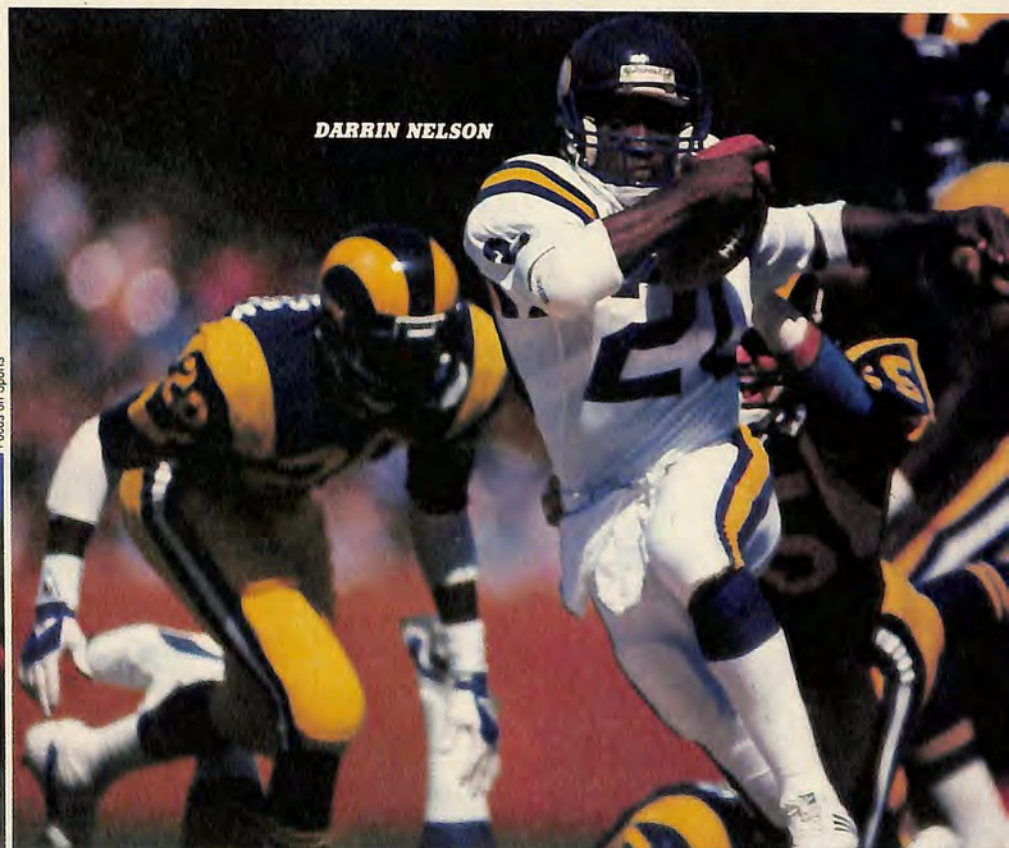
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IN THE SHADOW OF THE STARS

Angeles Raider cornerbacks Mike Haynes and Lester Hayes, who perform in the same AFC West Division. But Lewis covers future Hall of Fame receivers like San Diego's Charlie Joiner and Seattle's Steve Largent with the kind of skill that enables the Chiefs to play pressure defense.

"He's a walking training film on how to play cornerback," said former Kansas City backfield coach, Doug Graber.

In 1985, Lewis tied for the AFC interception lead with eight. In 1986, he was better. Still, he toils in anonymity.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed," Lewis admitted.



Paul Jasienski

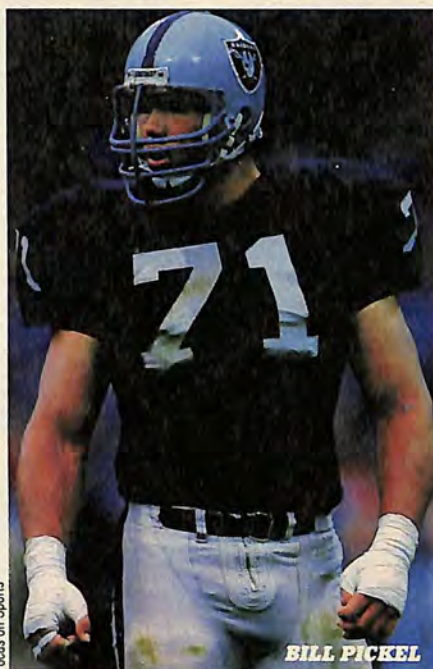
Darrin Nelson, running back Minnesota Vikings

A Minnesota writer said Nelson has a middle name: Darrin "Drafted Ahead of Marcus Allen" Nelson. Nelson has other aliases: Drafted Ahead of Gerald Riggs. Drafted Ahead of Joe Morris. The perception is that Nelson never has lived up to his names. After all, he is only 5-9 and never has gained 1,000 yards rushing. Numbers can be cruel.

But in Minnesota people have grown to appreciate Nelson. They even look up to him as the catalyst of a diversified offense. He catches the ball as well as he runs with it. He takes as much pride in his blocking as any of his other skills. And finally, in 1986, he actually outrushed Marcus Allen, 793 yards to 759.

Nelson was the first running back drafted in the exceptional class of 1982. But he was drafted by a team that chooses to use him differently from the typical feature back. He never has carried more than 25 times in a game, nor has he averaged more than 13 carries a game over a season.

"I can remember my first couple of years, they wanted to know why I wasn't getting 1,500 yards like Marcus Allen and Gerald



Focus on Sports

BILL PICKEL

Riggs. What am I supposed to do, get 1,000 yards by carrying 150 times? Pretty nice average," Nelson said.

In Minnesota's offense, the passing of quarterback Tommy Kramer often serves as the team's rushing attack. "Football is really specialized," Nelson said. "But on the Vikings, there's no, per se, ball-carrier. If you're here, you're going to be in there on first down, second down, third down, and you're going to catch the ball."

And if you're lucky, people will start calling you by your first name instead of your middle names.

James Jones, fullback Detroit Lions

When Billy Sims got hurt in Detroit, there was no way the Lions could ever move the football again. James Jones was supposed to be the blocking back for Sims. Now he would be blocking and there would be no one for the other team to tackle.

The Lions devised a plan. They would give Jones the ball and let him be his own blocker. He has responded by leading the club in rushing for two years and has led in receiving for three of his four seasons. Jones has been the most valuable offensive player on the Lions for three years in a row despite an uncharacteristic slow finish last season that had him mentioned in trade rumors. The Lions would have no trouble finding a buyer.

"Of all the guys in the league, he's the toughest to tackle," said Dallas safety Michael Downs. "I voted for him for the Pro Bowl."

Last season's opener was typical of Jones's career. He gained 174 yards against the Minnesota Vikings and was named NFC offensive player of the week. But the player who got the headlines that week was Dallas running back Herschel Walker, who gained 64 yards in his NFL debut against the Giants.

"I'm not a superstar," Jones said. "Big superstars are like the Eric Dickersons and Wal-

ter Paytons. I don't think I'm in the same mold as those guys. They're on a different plateau than I am. I'm just a hard, consistent worker."

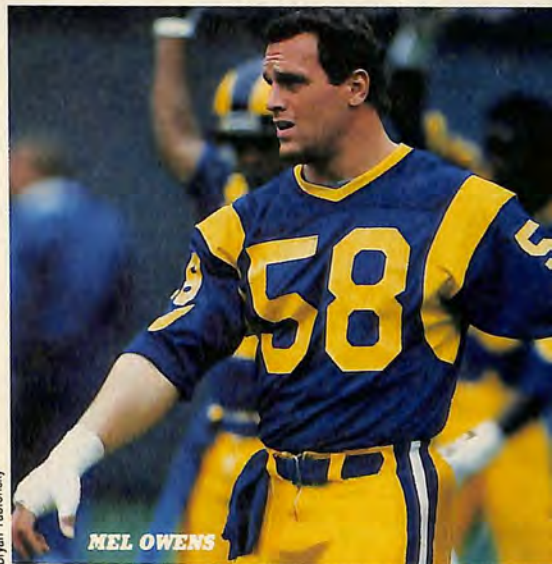
Jones could be speaking for dozens of colleagues who shine mostly on coaches' videotapes and rarely on TV highlights.

Willie Gault, wide receiver Chicago Bears

What does a wide receiver do on the Bears? He helps Walter Payton run, of course. The Bears have led the league in rushing for four years in a row, a feat not accomplished since the 1939-42 Bears. That was before Payton arrived. But before Gault arrived in 1983, the Bears had won the rushing title only once during the Payton era (1977). They have won it every year Gault has played receiver for them.

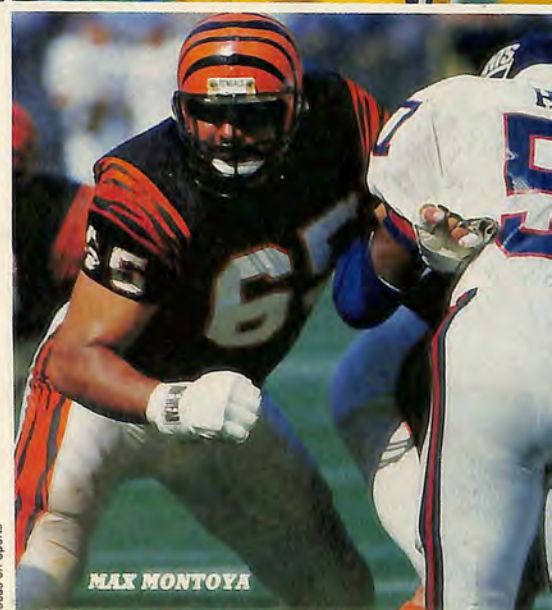
Clearly, there is more than coincidence at work. Does Gault run that many reverses? No, and he doesn't catch half as many passes as he would like either. But Gault happens to be one of the fastest men alive and that alone

continued on page 131



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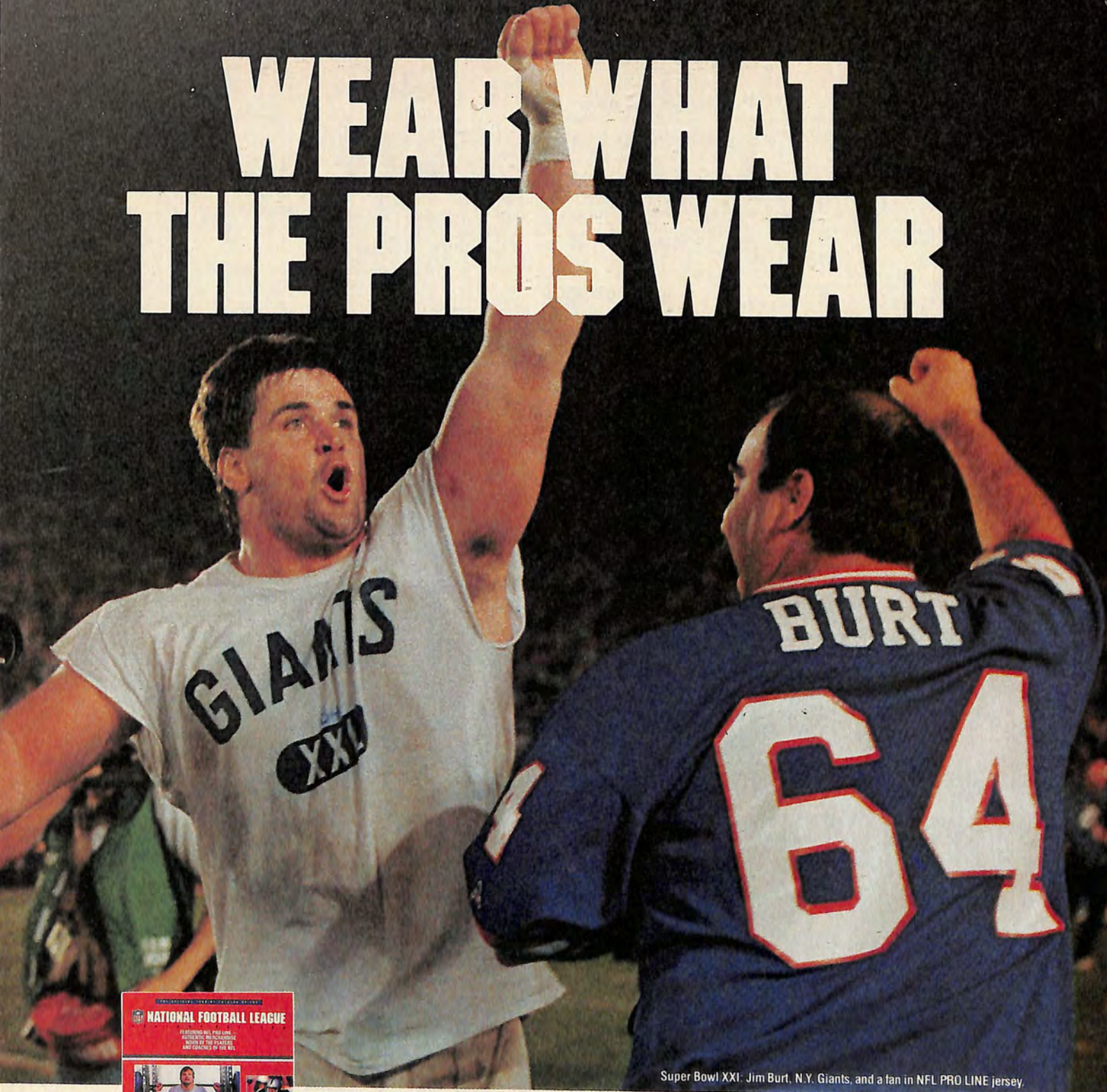
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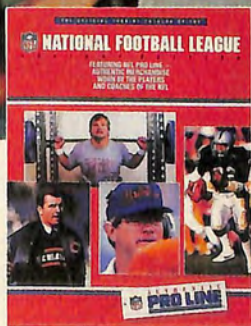
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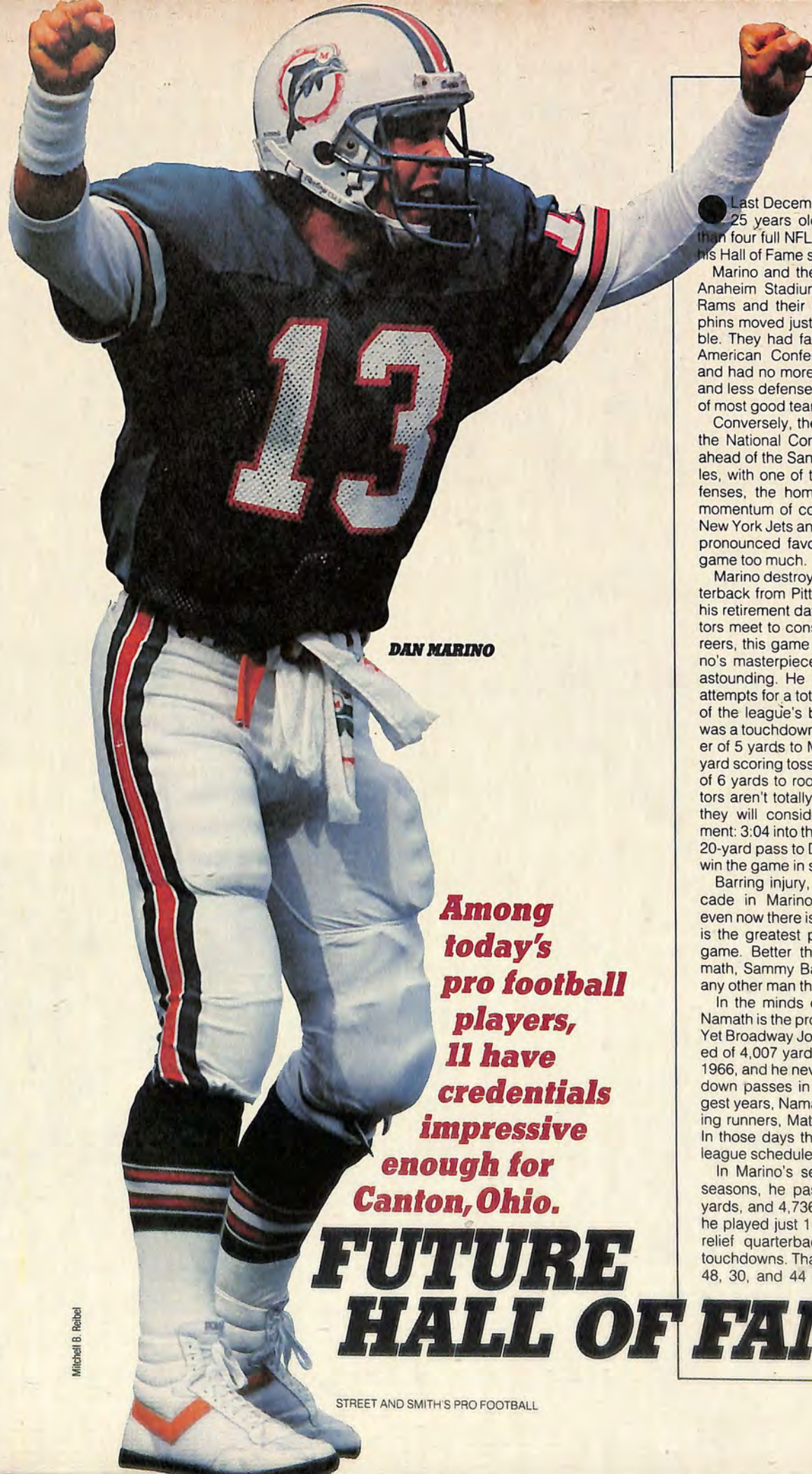
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FUTURE HALL OF FAMERS

**by LARRY
FELSER**
BUFFALO NEWS

● Last December 14, when he was a mere 25 years old and had played in fewer than four full NFL seasons, Dan Marino made his Hall of Fame statement.

Marino and the Miami Dolphins came into Anaheim Stadium to play the Los Angeles Rams and their powerful defense. The Dolphins moved just a trifle steadier than a wobble. They had fallen out of contention in the American Conference East by mid-season and had no more than a token running game and less defense—deficiencies in the staples of most good teams.

Conversely, the Rams were in first place in the National Conference West, a half game ahead of the San Francisco 49ers. Los Angeles, with one of the league's better pass defenses, the home-field advantage, and the momentum of consecutive victories over the New York Jets and the Dallas Cowboys, was a pronounced favorite. The Rams needed the game too much.

Marino destroyed them. When the big quarterback from Pittsburgh is five years beyond his retirement date and the Hall of Fame electors meet to consider the summing up of careers, this game will be cited as one of Marino's masterpieces. His statistics alone were astounding. He completed 29 passes in 49 attempts for a total of 403 yards against some of the league's best defensive backs. There was a touchdown pass of 65 yards and another of 5 yards to Mark Duper. There was a 43-yard scoring toss to Mark Clayton and another of 6 yards to rookie James Pruitt. If the electors aren't totally convinced by the numbers, they will consider Marino's clinching argument: 3:04 into the overtime period, he threw a 20-yard pass to Duper for a fifth touchdown to win the game in sudden death.

Barring injury, there remains at least a decade in Marino's professional career, but even now there is substantial evidence that he is the greatest passer who ever played this game. Better than Johnny Unitas, Joe Namath, Sammy Baugh, Norm Van Brocklin, or any other man the experts care to mention.

In the minds of many contemporary fans, Namath is the prototype high-risk long passer. Yet Broadway Joe's two best seasons consisted of 4,007 yards in 1967 and 3,379 yards in 1966, and he never threw more than 26 touchdown passes in one season. In his two biggest years, Namath played with two outstanding runners, Matt Snell and Emerson Boozer. In those days the Jets did not play an inter-league schedule against the old NFL teams.

In Marino's second, third, and fourth pro seasons, he passed for 5,084 yards, 4,137 yards, and 4,736 yards. In his rookie season, he played just 11 games, some of them as a relief quarterback, but still passed for 20 touchdowns. That was followed by seasons of 48, 30, and 44 scoring TDs. The record for

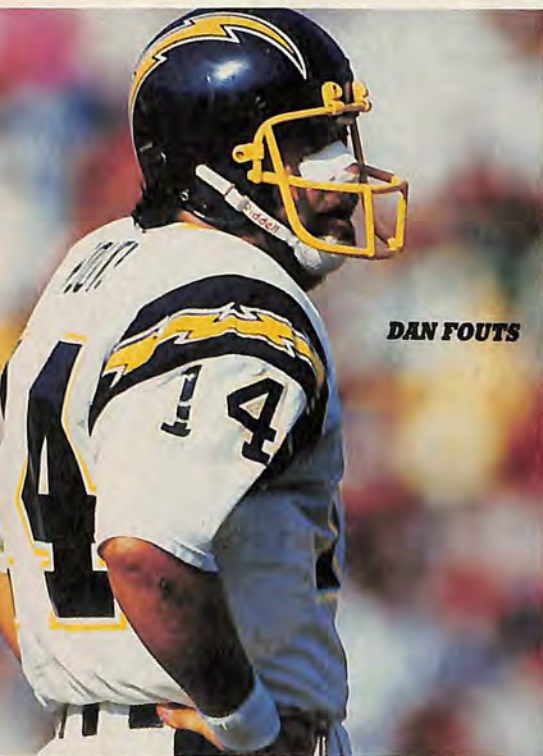
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FUTURE HALL OF FAMERS

most touchdown passes in a career is held by Fran Tarkenton, a Hall of Famer. Tarkenton played 18 seasons and threw for 342 scores, an average of 19 a season. Marino is averaging more than 35 touchdown passes per year.

It should be taken into consideration that Marino is playing in an era of rules that encourage wide-open passing, that he plays a 16-game schedule, whereas some of his predecessors played just 14, or even 12. But it should also be noted that many of the Hall of Fame quarterbacks played on teams with great defenses and sound running games. Namely, Tarkenton with Minnesota's Purple People Eaters, John Unitas with Hall of Fame defenders such as Gino Marchetti and Artie Donovan as well as fullback Alan Ameche and Hall of Fame halfback Lenny Moore.

Then there is the matter of Marino's production in relation to the high-risk nature of his passing. Marino has the highest rating of any quarterback in NFL history, conservative or high risk. Namath doesn't even make the top 20 list under the formula currently used for



DAN FOUTS

NFL passer ratings. Marino is the most obvious of 11 current NFL players who are likely to end up in the Hall of Fame.

Joe Montana

Joe Montana must be gauged differently. Not that the San Francisco quarterback's statistics are shoddy. Far from it, for he stands No. 2 behind Marino in the all-time rankings. Montana has averaged more than 17 touchdown passes a season for his eight pro years.

"But the most important thing about Joe," says Dan Devine, the former Green Bay head coach who helped develop Montana at Notre Dame, "is that he always has been such a big-game player."

In that category, Montana is in the company of Hall of Fame quarterbacks such as Unitas and Roger Staubach. Remember that Mon-

ERIC DICKERSON

tana was a mere third-round draft choice who came to a 49ers' team that had suffered through its worst season in pro football: 2 victories, 14 losses. He sat on the bench most of his rookie year, when the 49ers again were 2-14. By his second season as the starting quarterback, San Francisco won the Super Bowl.

Montana's signature game may have been the National Conference championship against the Dallas Cowboys at the end of the 1981 season. In a last-gasp, 89-yard drive, Montana took his team to the NFC title. The climax was a third-down, grace-under-pressure touchdown pass which Montana unloaded under a heavy rush, perfectly timed with just the right trajectory to Dwight Clark.

But Montana's credentials extend far beyond one game, or even his two Super Bowl victories. He was the central figure in a new concept of modern pro football—Bill Walsh's system of ball control through passing. Not only can Montana move his team steadily up the field despite the lack of a powerful passing arm, but he seldom gives away the football. In his NFL career, Montana has averaged fewer than 10 interceptions. In neither of the Niners' Super Bowl victories was he intercepted.

Dan Fouts

The third current NFL quarterback headed for Canton, Ohio, and the Hall of Fame is Dan Fouts of San Diego. When the rules-makers opened up the game in the late 1970s, Fouts was the principal instrument in coach Don Coryell's spectacular "Air Coryell" offense. Fouts has provided excellent entertainment year after year for the crowds in Jack Murphy Stadium. Only Tarkenton, Unitas, and Sonny Jurgensen, all Hall of Famers, have thrown more touchdown passes than the 244 that Fouts has completed in his 14 seasons. For the last decade, the Chargers were the highest scoring team in football under Fouts's supervision.

One of his triumphs came in 1982, the season of the players' strike. It was the time of



Focus on Sports

coaches' burnout and player disillusionment. Normally productive players, their mental attitude disrupted by the turmoil, caved in. Not Fouts. He averaged 347 passing yards per game after play resumed. If the Chargers had possessed a defense even remotely comparable to their offense, chances are that Fouts would have appeared in as many Super Bowls as the Steelers' Terry Bradshaw or the Cowboys' Staubach.

Steve Largent

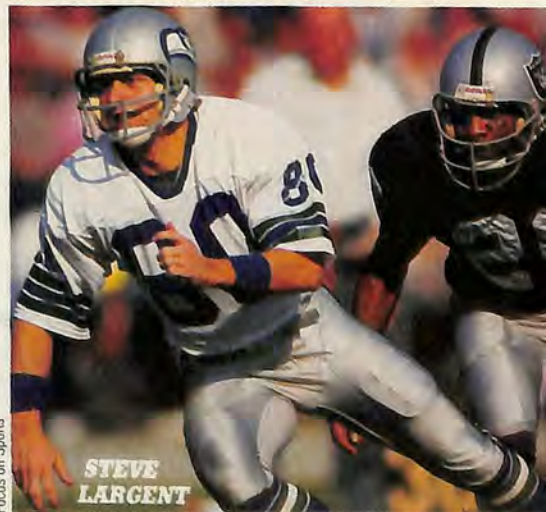
The case for Steve Largent, Seattle's great wide receiver, is overwhelming. Not only does Largent begin the 1987 season on the crest of a 139-game consecutive streak in which he has caught at least one pass, but he already has more career receptions than any member of the Hall of Fame. When Largent catches his second touchdown pass this season, he'll break the record held by Don Maynard, who will be inducted into the Hall this summer.

Lawrence Taylor

When George Allen gave a clinic before the last Super Bowl, he told his listeners, "The key to this game for the Denver Broncos is to control Lawrence Taylor." How often has that been said about a linebacker, even linebackers in the Dick Butkus-Ray Nitschke class? Taylor has been the most disruptive, dominant linebacker in an era of great athletes playing the position. His presence causes opposing offenses to concoct special blocking schemes, requiring two or three players, in order to keep Taylor off the back of the passer or out of the pursuit lanes that must be kept clear in order to spring a runner. There is no one like the New York Giants' Taylor in the Hall's roster of outside linebackers.

Eric Dickerson

After O.J. Simpson first saw Eric Dickerson carry the football for the Los Angeles Rams, he made a prediction. "This is the back who is going to break my record. He's strong, he's durable, he's fast, and he can accelerate to get those extra yards," he said. "When he



Focus on Sports

STEVE LARGENT

gives a tackler the straight arm, it's like a heavyweight boxer delivering a hard jab. He also has those wiggles, the moves that enable a back to cut against the grain and break into the open."

By his soph year as a pro, Dickerson had fulfilled O.J.'s prophecy. He became the second man to run for more than 2,000 yards in a single season, exceeding Simpson's best effort by 182 yards.

continued

1987 COLLEGE SPORTSWEAR

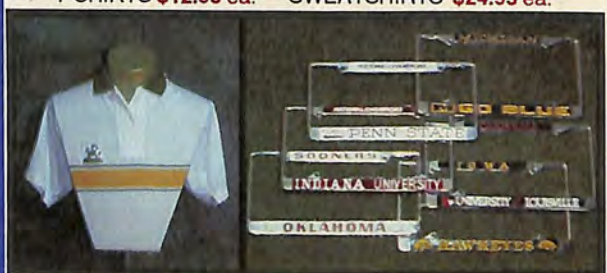


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A = T-SHIRTS - B = SWEATSHIRTS - C = HATS - D = POLOS
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POWER RANKING										CHARLES YACKETT										LICENSE FRAMES									
Al Force	A	B	C	D	E	F				Indiana	A	B	C	D	E	F				Penn St.	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Alabama	A	B	C	D	E	F				Iowa	A	B	C	D	E	F				Pittsburgh	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Arizona	A	B	C	D	E	F				Kansas	A	B	C	D	E	F				Princeton	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Arizona St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				Kansas St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				Purdue	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Arkansas	A	B	C	D	E	F				Kentucky	A	B	C	D	E	F				Rice	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Army	A	B	C	D	E	F				Louisiana St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				Rutgers	A	B	F						
Auburn	A	B	C	D	E	F				Louisville	A	B	C	D	E	F				San Diego St.	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Baylor	A	B	C	D	E	F				Marquette	A	B	C	D	E	F				Slippery Rock	C	D	E	F					
Boston College	A	B	C	D	E	F				Maryland	A	B	C	D	E	F				South Carolina	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Brightman Young	A	B	C	D	E	F				Miami, Florida	A	B	C	D	E	F				SMU	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Cal - Berkeley	A	B	C	D	E	F				Memphis St.	A	B	F						Stanford	A	B	C	D	E	F				
Cal - Irvine	A	B	F							Michigan	A	B	C	D					St. John's	A	B	C	D	E	F				
Cal - Fullerton	A	B	F							Michigan St.	A	B	C	D					Syracuse	A	B	C	D	E	F				
Clemson	A	B	C	D	E	F				Minnesota	A	B	C	D	E	F				Temple	A	B	F						
Colorado	A	B	C	D	E	F				Mississippi	A	B	C	D	E	F				Tennessee	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Cornell	A	B	C	D	E	F				Mississippi St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				Texas Christian	A	B	C	D	E	F			
DePaul	A	B	C	D	E	F				Missouri	A	B	C	D	E	F				Texas	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Duke	A	B	C	D	E	F				Navy	A	B	C	D	E	F				Texas A & M	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Florida	A	B	C	D	E	F				Nebraska	A	B	C	D	E	F				Texas Tech	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Florida St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				Nevada/La Veg	A	B	C	D	E	F				UCLA	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Fresno St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				N. Carolina	A	B	C	D	E	F				USC	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Georgia	A	B	C	D	E	F				N. Carolina St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				Vanderbilt	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Georgia Tech	A	B	C	D	E	F				Northwestern	A	B	C	D	E	F				Villanova	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Georgetown	A	B	C	D	E	F				Notre Dame	A	B	C	D	E	F				Wake Forest	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Harvard	A	B	F							Ohio State	A	B	C	D	E	F				Washington	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Hawaii	A	B	C	D	E	F				Oklahoma	A	B	C	D	E	F				Washington St.	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Houston	A	B	C	D	E	F				Oklahoma St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				West Virginia	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Idaho	A	B	F							Oregon	A	B	C	D	E	F				Wisconsin	A	B	C	D	E	F			
Illinois	A	B	C	D	E	F				Oregon St.	A	B	C	D	E	F				Yale	A	B	C	D	E	F			

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FUTURE HALL OF FAMERS

Dickerson's total of 1,808 yards in 1983 was a record for an NFL rookie. He led the league in rushing in three of his first four seasons. His landmark game is a 248-yard day against the Dallas Cowboys in the 1985 playoffs. Dickerson already is No. 14 on the list of all-time ground-gainers. If he has an average season, he will vault into the top 10 in 1987, with the possibility of another half of his career still beckoning.

Marcus Allen

After just five years as a professional, Marcus Allen ranks as the Raiders' second-leading all-time ground-gainer, their third-leading career scorer among non-kickers, their No. 4 receiver, and No. 16 passer. Allen had a string of 11 consecutive games in which he had run for more than 100 yards. He is the only Raider in the team's glittering history to run for more than 100 yards and catch passes for 100 more in one game. His versatility ranks him with such Hall of Fame backs as Frank Gifford and Paul Hornung. And if one measures truly great football athletes by the big plays they make in big games, Allen ranks with any modern running back. His most memorable game was in Super Bowl XVIII against the Washington Redskins.

"I had a strong feeling we were going to win, since Washington beat us by just two points, 37-35, in Washington during the regu-

lar season in a game in which Marcus appeared in just a few plays because of an injury," says Al LoCasale, the long-time aide to Raiders' owner Al Davis.

In the Super Bowl, the Redskins couldn't hold Allen. He ran for 191 yards, still a Super record. His 74-yard touchdown in that game is another mark. It was a classic run, in which Marcus whirled away from the Washington pursuit, improvised, and found an alley up the middle. He dashed through it and away from all defenders for an electrifying score.

There is another important factor about Allen. He is so versatile that while the opposition can stop him from making big plays, he often manages to put together enough seven- and eight-yard gains to produce a 100-yard day.

Walter Payton

If there is such a thing as a shoo-in for the Hall, Walter Payton qualifies. The next touchdown that Sweetness scores will push him beyond the great Jim Brown and into sole possession of the NFL record for the most TD scores, 107, during a career. By the time the 1987 season is finished, Payton should have inflated his standing as the NFL's all-time leading ground-gainer. His 16,193 yards were 3,881 beyond Brown's total at the end of last year. Payton's final numbers will be a target that Dickerson or any other contemporary runner will find difficult to match. But Payton deserves an inspection for more than mere numbers. In his first nine seasons, he played on just two winning Chicago Bears' teams. His overall supporting casts were substandard, and until Jim McMahon arrived in 1982, Payton had not played with an accomplished major-league quarterback.

Tony Dorsett

It's possible to become fascinated by Tony Dorsett's statistics and not look at the overall picture—which is even more impressive than the numbers. Dorsett needs only 541 yards this season to move into third place on the all-time ground-gaining list and 732 yards to pass Brown. He has more 100-yard games than any runner in NFL history and has run for 1,000 or more yards in eight of his first nine seasons. The sole exception was the abbreviated strike year of 1982. The big picture is that he missed only three games in his first nine seasons. And remember that he weighs just 185 pounds. The Cowboys are convinced that he is the best small back of the modern era.

Then there is his toughness. In a 1985 game in Philadelphia, Dorsett was knocked cold by a helmet-to-helmet collision with Ray Ellis of the Eagles. Looking like a groggy boxer, Dorsett was helped from the field at half time. But not only did he play, he gained more than 100 yards in the second half. Future electors also must consider Dorsett's ability in the clutch. Only Franco Harris of the Steelers has more playoff rushing yardage than Tony. Not well known is Dorsett's reputation as a practice player. He is superb at rehearsals as well as in the games and is a natural leader who sets the tone for his teammates' attitude.

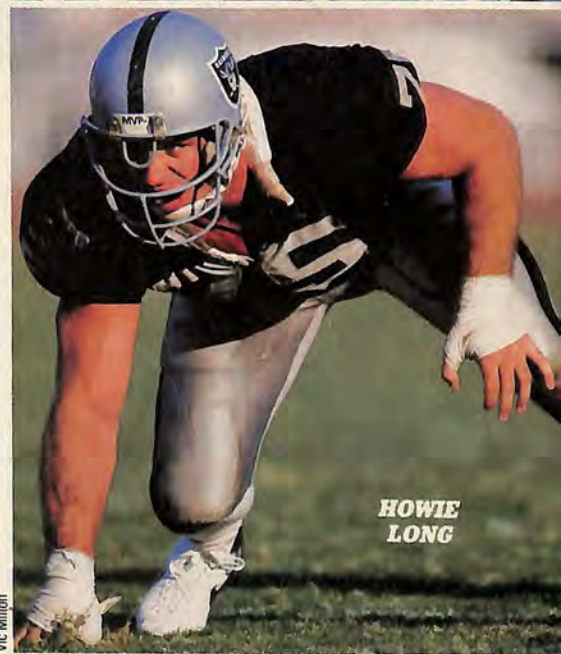
Randy White

One of the few times defensive linemen were rewarded in proportion to their contributions to a victory was in Super Bowl XII, when Harvey Martin and Randy White of Dallas shared



RANDY WHITE

Mitchell B. Reibel



HOWIE LONG

Vic Millon

the Most Valuable Player award for their part in crushing Denver. Martin had a fine career, but one not as overwhelming as White's. Cowboy film-graders found that on 75 to 80 percent of opponents' pass plays, Randy gets double-teamed. He is used to seeing multiple blocking schemes, but his success in defeating them helped him to be named to the National Conference Pro Bowl squad nine consecutive seasons in an era in which the NFC featured defensive linemen.

Howie Long

The Raiders feature another premier lineman. "The sign of a dominating defensive player," says LoCasale, "is when the opposing offensive coordinator gets into his team meeting and asks, 'What are we going to do to stop this guy?' That happens all the time to Howie Long."

The Raiders use Long in seven different positions in their three- and four-man fronts. Their idea is to create mismatches, so that two or three blockers have to be assigned to control Long. Evidence that it works is that the Raiders recorded 249 sacks in the last four seasons. There have been years when Long wasn't the individual sack leader, but the double- and triple-team attention he gets is the reason for most of those 249. He is the most dominant defensive lineman of the 1980s.

Canton, here they come.

continued



MARCUS ALLEN

All Sport/ Tony Dally



WALTER PAYTON

All Sport/ Mike Powell

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FUTURE HALL OF FAMERS

continued

LEADING PASSERS

MINIMUM 1500 ATTEMPTS

rank	player	yrs.	att.	comp.	yds.	td.	int.	rating
1.	DAN MARINO	4	2050	1249	16,177	142	67	95.2
2.	JOE MONTANA	8	2878	1818	21,498	141	76	91.2
3.	Otto Graham	10	2626	1464	23,584	174	135	86.6
4.	DAVE KRIEG	7	1822	1046	13,677	107	73	84.1
5.	Roger Staubach	11	2958	1685	22,700	153	109	83.4
6.	DANNY WHITE	11	2546	1517	19,068	142	112	83.2
7.	Sonny Jurgensen	18	4262	2433	32,224	255	189	82.6
8.	Len Dawson	19	3741	2136	28,711	239	183	82.6
9.	KEN ANDERSON	16	4475	2654	32,838	197	160	81.9
10.	DAN FOUTS	14	5240	3091	40,523	244	227	80.9
11.	NEIL LOMAX	6	2247	1287	15,989	92	67	80.7
12.	Bart Starr	16	3149	1808	24,718	152	138	80.5
13.	Fran Tarkenton	18	6467	3686	47,003	342	266	80.4
14T	Bert Jones	10	2251	1430	18,190	124	101	78.2
14T	Johnny Unitas	18	5186	2830	40,239	290	253	78.2
16.	Frank Ryan	13	2133	1090	16,042	149	111	77.6
17.	BILL KENNEY	8	2043	1118	14,621	90	72	77.5
18.	Joe Theismann	12	3602	2044	25,206	160	138	77.4
19.	Bob Griese	14	3429	1926	25,092	192	172	77.1
20.	GARY DANIELSON	11	1847	1049	13,159	77	77	75.6

LEADING SCORERS

rank	player	yrs.	td.	pat.	fg.	pts.
1.	George Blanda	26	9	943	335	2002
2.	Jan Stenerud	19	0	580	373	1699
3.	Lou Groza	21	1	810	264	1608
4.	Jim Turner	16	1	521	304	1439
5.	MARK MOSELEY	16	0	482	300	1382
6.	Jim Bakken	17	0	534	282	1380
7.	Fred Cox	15	0	519	282	1365
8.	Gino Cappelletti	11	42	350	176	1130
9.	Don Cockroft	13	0	432	216	1080
10.	Garo Yepremian	14	0	444	210	1074
11.	RAY WERSCHING	14	0	412	209	1039
12.	Bruce Gossett	13	0	374	219	1031
13.	PAT LEAHY	11	0	393	200	993
14.	Sam Baker	10	2	428	179	977
15.	RAFAEL SEPTIEN	11	0	420	180	960
16.	CHRIS BAHR	13	1	397	187	958
17.	Lou Michaels	11	0	386	187	955
18.	Roy Gerela	13	1	351	184	903
19.	Bobby Walston	12	46	365	80	881
20.	Pete Gogolak	10	0	344	173	863

LEADING RECEIVERS

rank	player	yrs.	no.	yds.	avg.	td.
1.	CHARLIE JOINER	18	750	12,146	16.2	65
2.	STEVE LARGENT	11	694	11,129	16.0	87
3.	Charley Taylor	13	649	9110	14.0	79
4.	Don Maynard	15	633	11,834	18.7	88
5.	Raymond Berry	13	631	9275	14.7	68
6.	Harold Carmichael	14	590	8985	15.2	79
7.	Fred Biletnikoff	14	589	8974	15.2	76
8.	Harold Jackson	16	579	10,372	17.9	76
9.	Lionel Taylor	10	567	7195	12.7	45
10.	Lance Alworth	11	542	10,266	18.9	85
11.	OZZIE NEWSOME	9	541	6698	12.4	42
12.	JAMES LOFTON	9	530	9656	18.2	49
13.	Bobby Mitchell	11	521	7954	15.3	65
14.	WES CHANDLER	9	516	8316	16.1	54
15.	NAT MOORE	13	510	7546	14.8	74
16.	Billy Howton	12	503	8459	16.8	61
17.	Cliff Branch	12	501	8685	17.3	67
18.	JOHN STALLWORTH	13	496	8202	16.5	61
19T	Tommy McDonald	12	495	8410	17.0	84
19T	Ahmad Rashad	10	495	6831	13.8	44

LEADING RUSHERS

rank	player	yrs.	att.	yds.	avg.	td.
1.	WALTER PAYTON	12	3692	16,193	4.4	106
2.	Jim Brown	9	2359	12,312	5.2	106
3.	Franco Harris	13	2949	12,120	4.1	91
4.	TONY DORSETT	10	2625	11,580	4.4	71
5.	John Riggins	14	2916	11,352	3.9	104
6.	O.J. Simpson	11	2404	11,236	4.7	61
7.	Joe Perry	16	1929	9723	5.0	71
8.	Earl Campbell	8	2187	9407	4.3	74
9.	Jim Taylor	10	1941	8597	4.4	83
10.	Larry Csonka	11	1891	8081	4.3	64
11.	O.J. ANDERSON	8	1882	8080	4.3	47
12.	MIKE PRUITT	11	1844	7378	4.0	51
13.	Leroy Kelly	10	1727	7274	4.2	55
14.	ERIC DICKERSON	4	1495	6968	4.7	55
15.	John Henry Johnson	13	1571	6803	4.3	48
16.	Wilbert Montgomery	9	1540	6789	4.4	45
17.	Chuck Muncie	9	1561	6702	4.3	71
18.	Mark van Eeghen	10	1652	6651	4.0	37
19.	Lawrence McCutcheon	10	1521	6578	4.3	26
20.	GEORGE ROGERS	6	1529	6563	4.3	48

PASSES ATTEMPTED

1.	Fran Tarkenton	6467
2.	DAN FOUTS	5240
3.	Johnny Unitas	5186
4.	Jim Hart	5076
5.	John Hadl	4687
6.	Roman Gabriel	4498
7.	John Brodie	4491
8.	KEN ANDERSON	4475
9.	Y.A. Tittle	4395
10.	JOE FERGUSON	4375
11.	Norm Snead	4353
12.	Sonny Jurgensen	4262
13.	RON JAWORSKI	4042
14.	George Blanda	4007
15.	Terry Bradshaw	3901
16.	Ken Stabler	3763
17.	Craig Morton	3786
18.	Joe Namath	3762
19.	Len Dawson	3741
20.	JIM PLUNKETT	3701

PASSES COMPLETED

1.	Fran Tarkenton	3686
2.	DAN FOUTS	3091
3.	Johnny Unitas	2830
4.	KEN ANDERSON	2654
5.	Jim Hart	2593
6.	John Brodie	2469
7.	Sonny Jurgensen	2433
8.	Y.A. Tittle	2427
9.	Roman Gabriel	2366
10.	John Hadl	2363
11.	JOE FERGUSON	2292
12.	Norm Snead	2276
13.	Ken Stabler	2270
14.	RON JAWORSKI	2142
15.	Len Dawson	2136
16.	Craig Morton	2053
17.	Joe Theismann	2044
18.	Terry Bradshaw	2025
19.	Archie Manning	2011
20.	Brian Sipe	1944

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

1.	Fran Tarkenton	342
2.	Johnny Unitas	290
3.	Sonny Jurgensen	255
4T	DAN FOUTS	244
4T	John Hadl	244
6.	Y.A. Tittle	242
7.	Len Dawson	239
8.	George Blanda	236
9.	John Brodie	214
10.	Terry Bradshaw	212
11.	Jim Hart	209
12.	Roman Gabriel	201
13.	KEN ANDERSON	197
14T	Norm Snead	196
14T	Bobby Layne	196
16.	Ken Stabler	194
17.	Bob Griese	192
18.	JOE FERGUSON	190
19.	Sammy Baugh	186
20.	Craig Morton	183

YARDS PASSING

1.	Fran Tarkenton	47,003
2.	DAN FOUTS	40,523
3.	Johnny Unitas	40,239
4.	Jim Hart	34,665
5.	John Hadl	33,513
6.	Y.A. Tittle	33,070
7.	KEN ANDERSON	32,838
8.	Sonny Jurgensen	32,224
9.	John Brodie	31,548
10.	Norm Snead	30,797
11.	Roman Gabriel	29,444
12.	JOE FERGUSON	28,895
13.	Len Dawson	28,711
14.	Terry Bradshaw	27,989
15.	Ken Stabler	27,938
16.	Craig Morton	27,908
17.	RON JAWORSKI	27,682
18.	Joe Namath	27,663
19.	George Blanda	26,920
20.	Bobby Layne	26,768

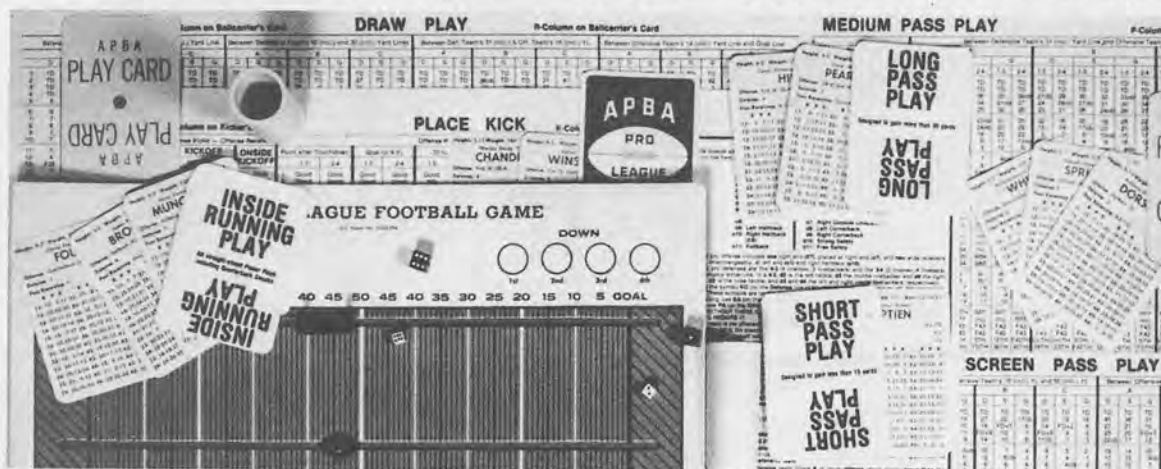
Active players in 1986 in CAPS. Hall of Fame members in italics.

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Sunday, September 13

Atlanta at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at Indianapolis
Cleveland at New Orleans
Dallas at St. Louis
Detroit at Minnesota
L.A. Raiders at Green Bay
L.A. Rams at Houston
Miami at New England
New York Jets at Buffalo
Philadelphia at Washington
San Diego at Kansas City
San Francisco at Pittsburgh
Seattle at Denver

Monday, September 14

New York Giants at Chicago (N)

Sunday, September 20

Dallas at New York Giants
Denver vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
Detroit at L.A. Raiders
Houston at Buffalo
Kansas City at Seattle
Miami at Indianapolis
Minnesota at L.A. Rams
New Orleans at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
St. Louis at San Diego
San Francisco at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Washington at Atlanta

Monday, September 21

New England
at New York Jets (N)

Sunday, September 27

Atlanta at New Orleans
Buffalo at Dallas
Chicago at Detroit
Cincinnati at L.A. Rams
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
Indianapolis at St. Louis
L.A. Raiders at Houston
Minnesota at Kansas City
New York Jets at Pittsburgh
New York Giants at Miami
New England at Washington
Philadelphia at San Francisco
Seattle at San Diego

Monday, September 28

Denver at Cleveland (N)

Sunday, October 4

Chicago at Philadelphia
Cleveland at New England
Dallas at New York Jets
Green Bay at Minnesota
Houston at Denver
Indianapolis at Buffalo
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders
L.A. Rams at New Orleans
Miami at Seattle
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
St. Louis at Washington
San Diego at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at Detroit

Monday, October 5

San Francisco
at New York Giants (N)

Sunday, October 11

Atlanta at San Francisco
Buffalo at New England
Cincinnati at Seattle
Detroit at Green Bay
Houston at Cleveland
Kansas City at Miami
Minnesota at Chicago
New Orleans at St. Louis
New York Jets at Indianapolis
Philadelphia at Dallas
Pittsburgh at L.A. Rams
San Diego at Tampa Bay
Washington at New York Giants

Monday, October 12

L.A. Raiders at Denver (N)

Sunday, October 18

Cleveland at Cincinnati
Denver at Kansas City
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh
L.A. Rams at Atlanta
Miami at New York Jets
New England at Houston
New Orleans at Chicago
New York Giants at Buffalo
Philadelphia at Green Bay
St. Louis at San Francisco
San Diego at L.A. Raiders
Seattle at Detroit
Tampa Bay at Minnesota

Monday, October 19

Washington at Dallas (N)

Sunday, October 25

Atlanta at Houston
Buffalo at Miami
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Dallas at Philadelphia
Denver at Minnesota
Green Bay at Detroit
Kansas City at San Diego
New England at Indianapolis
New York Jets at Washington
St. Louis at New York Giants
San Francisco at New Orleans
Seattle at L.A. Raiders

Monday, October 26

L.A. Rams at Cleveland (N)

Sunday, November 1

Cleveland at San Diego
Detroit at Denver
Houston at Cincinnati
Indianapolis at
New York Jets
Kansas City at Chicago
L.A. Raiders at New England
Minnesota at Seattle
New Orleans at Atlanta
Philadelphia at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at Miami
San Francisco at L.A. Rams
Tampa Bay vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
Washington at Buffalo

Monday, November 2

New York Giants at Dallas (N)

Sunday, November 8

Atlanta at Cleveland
Chicago at Green Bay
Dallas at Detroit
Denver at Buffalo
Houston at San Francisco
L.A. Raiders at Minnesota
L.A. Rams at Cincinnati
Miami at New Orleans
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
Pittsburgh at Kansas City
San Diego at Indianapolis
Tampa Bay at St. Louis
Washington at Philadelphia
New England
at New York Giants (N)

Monday, November 9

Seattle at New York Jets

Sunday, November 15

Buffalo at Cleveland
Cincinnati at Atlanta
Dallas at New England
Detroit at Washington
Green Bay at Seattle
Houston at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at Miami
L.A. Rams at St. Louis
L.A. Rams at Tampa Bay
Minnesota at San Francisco
New Orleans at Philadelphia
New York Giants at Kansas City
New York Jets at San Diego (N)
L.A. Raiders at San Diego (N)

Monday, November 16

Chicago at Denver (N)

Sunday, November 22

Atlanta at Minnesota
Buffalo at New York Jets
Cleveland at Houston
Detroit at Chicago
Denver at L.A. Raiders
Green Bay at Kansas City
Indianapolis at New England
New York Giants at New Orleans
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
St. Louis at Philadelphia
San Diego at Seattle
San Francisco at Tampa Bay
Miami at Dallas (N)

Monday, November 23

L.A. Rams at Washington (N)

Thursday, November 26

Kansas City at Detroit
Minnesota at Dallas

Sunday, November 29

Cincinnati at New York Jets
Denver at San Diego
Green Bay at Chicago
Houston at Indianapolis
Miami at Buffalo
New Orleans at Pittsburgh
New York Giants at Washington
Philadelphia at New England
St. Louis at Atlanta
Tampa Bay at L.A. Rams
Cleveland at San Francisco (N)

Monday, November 30

L.A. Raiders at Seattle (N)

Sunday, December 6

Atlanta at Dallas
Buffalo at L.A. Raiders
Indianapolis at Cleveland
Kansas City at Cincinnati
L.A. Rams at Detroit
New England at Denver
Philadelphia at New York Giants
San Diego at Houston
San Francisco at Green Bay
Seattle at Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Washington at St. Louis
Chicago at Minnesota (N)

Monday, December 7

New York Jets at Miami (N)

Sunday, December 13

Atlanta at L.A. Rams
Buffalo at Indianapolis
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Dallas at Washington
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Houston at New Orleans
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City
Miami at Philadelphia
Minnesota vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
New York Giants at St. Louis
New York Jets at New England
Pittsburgh at San Diego
Denver at Seattle (N)

Monday, December 14

Chicago at San Francisco (N)

Saturday, December 19

Green Bay at New York Giants
Kansas City at Denver

Sunday, December 20

Cleveland at L.A. Raiders
Indianapolis at San Diego
Minnesota at Detroit
New England at Buffalo
New Orleans at Cincinnati
Philadelphia at New York Jets
Pittsburgh at Houston
St. Louis at Tampa Bay
San Francisco at Atlanta
Seattle at Chicago
Washington at Miami (N)

Monday, December 21

Dallas at L.A. Rams (N)

Saturday, December 26

Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Washington at Minnesota

Sunday, December 27

Buffalo at Philadelphia
Chicago at L.A. Raiders
Cincinnati at Houston
Detroit at Atlanta
Green Bay at New Orleans
New York Jets
at New York Giants
St. Louis at Dallas
San Diego at Denver
Seattle at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis
L.A. Rams at San Francisco (N)

Monday, December 28

New England at Miami (N)

It is the best and worst of times for the National Football Conference. The old NFC is dominating without nearly the fanfare the new AFC got in the 1970s. The New York Giants, Chicago Bears, and San Francisco 49ers have won the last three Super Bowls in routs. Yet no one is wondering, "What's wrong with the AFC?" Although the interconference rivalry remains close during the season, the NFC rules in the big games when the AFC offers almost no competition.

The balance of power has reverted to the comfortable notion that old is good and familiar is favorable. When football was football, the NFC always won. When Lombardi and the Packers played the upstart AFL in the first Super Bowls, not everybody in the country bothered to pay attention. The outcome was no more in doubt than it was in the old College All-Star game, when the pros annually beat up the collegians. Like television money and Pete Rozelle, the NFC is again being taken for granted. It has dominated the 1980s and shows no signs of allowing the pendulum to swing back to the AFC before the 1990s.

The NFC has all the first-round quarterbacks drafted in the last two years. But that time-tested barometer is not the only edge the old guys enjoy. They run and play defense in the NFC the way they used to run and play defense before quarterbacks were pretty boys. Running and tackling combined beats passing alone. That is what the NFC is proving as teams like the Giants and Bears emerge from the dark ages with the weapons that made them legendary franchises.

"We're back to playing old-fashioned, physical football," said CBS-TV analyst John Madden. "The defenses have caught up with the offenses."

The NFC had nine of the top 12 rushing offenses in the league and nine of the top 12 defenses. Seattle's Curt Warner was the only AFC runner among the top seven: the Rams' Eric Dickerson, the Giants' Joe Morris, the Saints' Rueben Mayes, the Bears' Walter Payton, the Falcons' Gerald Riggs, and the Redskins' George Rogers. Add to that NFC stable two top newcomers from last season, the Cowboys' Herschel Walker and the Eagles' Keith Byars, and four of the top five halfbacks selected in this year's draft: Auburn's Brent Fullwood to the Packers, Penn State's D. J. Dozier to the Vikings, Clemson's Terrence Flagler to the 49ers, and Clemson's Kenny Flowers to the Falcons.

PREDICTIONS	
WEST	EAST
1. Los Angeles Rams	1. New York Giants
2. San Francisco 49ers	2. Washington Redskins
3. New Orleans Saints	3. Philadelphia Eagles
4. Atlanta Falcons	4. Dallas Cowboys
	5. St. Louis Cardinals
	6. Washington Redskins
Wild card teams: San Francisco 49ers, Chicago Bears	
Super Bowl team: Chicago Bears	

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

by **DON PIERSON**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Coach Mike Ditka is looking for a healthy Jim McMahon to lead the Chicago Bears back to the Super Bowl. They'll meet last year's champions, the New York Giants, in the first Monday-night game of the year.

The only NFC quarterbacks among this year's top 10 were leader Tommy Kramer of the Vikings and Joe Montana of the 49ers. The AFC drafted all six blue-chip quarterbacks in the class of 1983. One of them, the Broncos' John Elway, was in the Super Bowl. Four others—the Dolphins' Dan Marino, the Patriots' Tony Eason, the Jets' Ken O'Brien, and the Bills' Jim Kelly—were among this year's top 10.

"The AFC has a lot of good, young quarterbacks. But the quarterback isn't the whole show anymore. It used to be a super passer could darn near win a title by himself. Now he's just one more element in the whole equation," Madden said.

Just in case the quarterback becomes the whole equation again, the NFC has protected itself. The Rams acquired Jim Everett from the Oilers. The Lions have Chuck Long, and the NFC went four-for-four on first-round quarterbacks this year with Miami's Vinny Testaverde going to the Bucs, Colorado State's Kelly Stouffer to the Cardinals, Oregon's Chris Miller to the Falcons, and Michigan's Jim Harbaugh to the Bears.

Defense carried the Giants, Bears, and 49ers to their lopsided Super Bowl triumphs and linebackers carried the Giants and Bears on their shoulders. Now everybody is looking for linebackers and the AFC took all four first-rounders in the draft: Alabama's Cornelius Bennett to the Colts, Duke's Mike Junkin to the Browns, Penn State's Shane Conlan to the Bills, and Pitt's Tony Woods to the Seahawks. Before the draft, 49er coach Bill Walsh said a trade for Alabama's Bennett "probably will be tougher to make than one for Testaverde, because after the success of the Giants' and Bears' linebackers, that position is now at a premium."

NFC domination does not permeate from top to bottom. The four NFC playoff finalists—the Giants, Bears, 49ers, and Redskins—combined for a 14-2 record against the AFC last year. Overall, the NFC-AFC breakdown last year was 26-26.

The Giants, Bears, 49ers, and Redskins were the only NFC clubs with winning records against the AFC. But the NFC wins the big one. Since 1981, the NFC has a 145-144 edge in interconference play, but a 5-1 edge in Super Bowl victories.

The NFC accepts the good with the bad. The lowly Tampa Bay Buccaneers have struggled at the bottom of the heap for two years. They couldn't sign running back Bo Jackson last year, but they landed Testaverde this time and don't plan on making a third No. 1 pick in a row. They will leave that to someone from the lowly AFC.

Meanwhile, the Giants are the latest team trying to cope with dynasty questions. No team has repeated a Super Bowl triumph in the 1980s, but the same cannot be said of the conferences. If the Giants can't do what the Bears and the 49ers couldn't do before them, somebody else from the NFC probably will.



THE WEST The addition of Everett for a full year and coach John Robinson's commitment to fashion a passing attack to complement the great Dickerson make the Rams an intriguing possibility for the Super Bowl after years of playoff disappointments. Not only can the Rams already run with the best of them, they play defense with the best. Their only shortcoming is in their passing attack, which Robinson promises to improve with the addition of offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese from the perennial pass-happy San Diego Chargers.

The 49ers will again provide the Rams with their stiffest competition in the West. The return of Montana for a full season at quarterback could be all the 49ers need to make them the first three-time Super Bowl winner in the 1980s.

While the Falcons and Saints still lag behind, both teams have made strides in the areas of running and defense that could soon catapult them into contention.

THE EAST The Giants open the season on Monday night against the Bears in Chicago in a titanic clash that could set the tone for both teams. Coach Bill Parcells of the Giants and Mike Ditka of the Bears commiserated that neither would have enough players left to make it to the second game. For the Giants, that second game comes six days later against Dallas. Then the champions travel to Miami before facing the 49ers and Redskins at home. If the Giants start out 5-0, concede them another title. They would deserve it.

The Redskins don't plan to lose three games to the Giants in one season again, but their plans to bulk up their defense to Giant standards got little headway in the draft. The Redskins were rooting for New York to win the last Super Bowl on the premise that a victory would automatically disqualify the Giants from repeating and therefore give the Redskins a better chance.

"What particular Redskins are you referring to?" asked Parcells. "Is it the whole Indian nation? The Iroquois? The Algonquins?"

The Eagles are the team to watch in the East if young quarterback Randall Cunningham continues to develop and running back Byars heals from a foot injury. Coach Buddy Ryan did get defensive help and he already has the one defensive player in football who can dominate like the Giants' great Lawrence Taylor in lineman Reggie White. The trouble with the Eagles' chances is they play the toughest schedule in the league.

The Cowboys will be a factor in the strongest division in the league because of Herschel Walker alone. They also got help on defense and must hope that quarterback Danny White is healthy.

The Cardinals are the only East club incapable of competing this year. They can't seem to decide who is running or who is passing or who is catching or even where they may play next season.

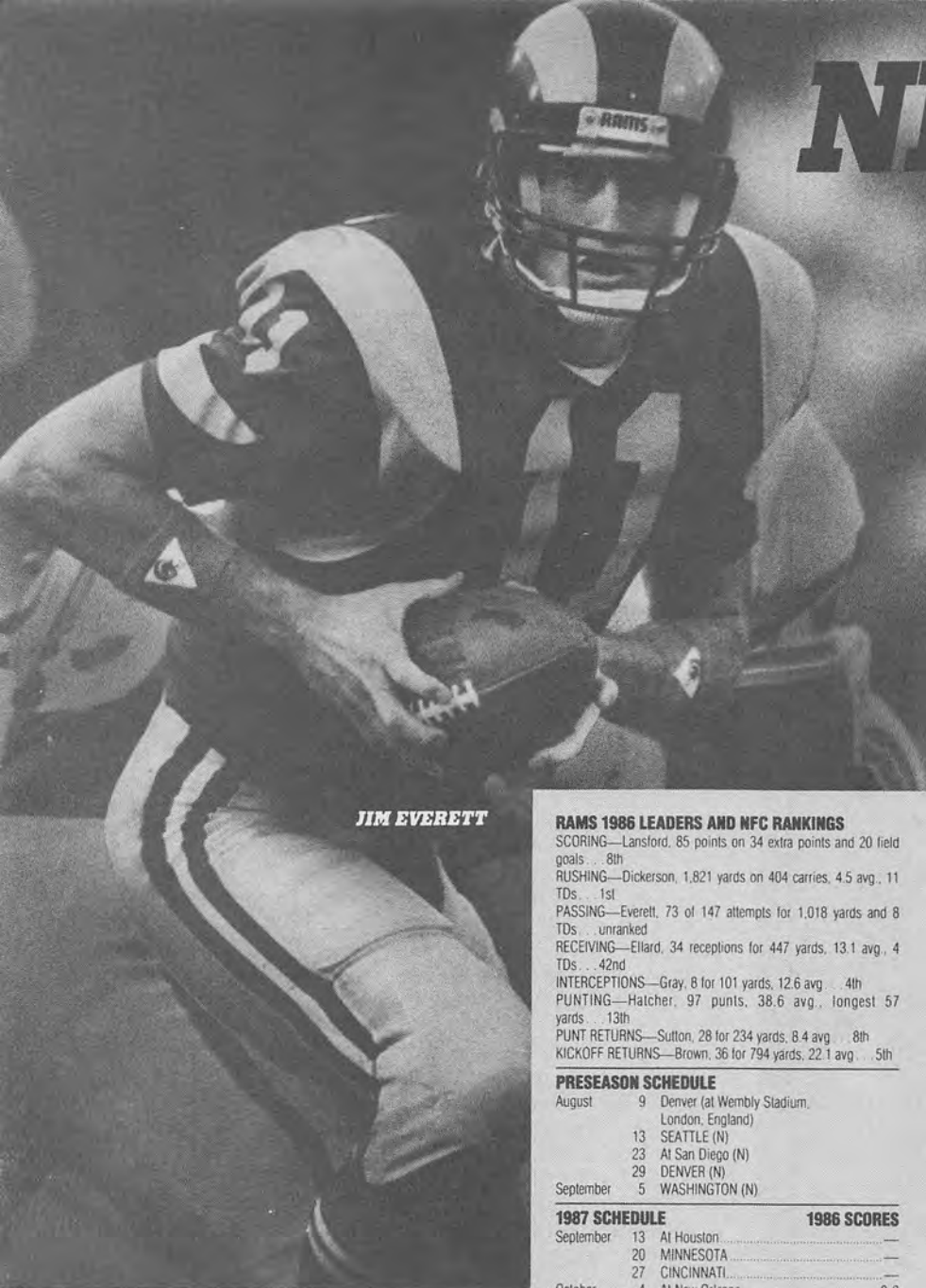
THE CENTRAL The Bears again are the class of the division, but they are starting to pay a price for beating up on their rivals. They must watch them draft early and often. The Bears have led the league in defense for three years in a row. Now they must stop the Bucs' Testaverde, the Packers' Fullwood, and the Vikings' Dozier. The Bears also must hope quarterback Jim McMahon's reconstructed shoulder is mended and that he can stay healthy for a change.

The Vikings still rely on Kramer and that could be enough when he's hot. They also improved their running and defense, the formula of the 1980s.

If the Lions get a good season out of their 1986 No. 1 choice, Long, they could make the kind of move the Vikings made last year. They greatly improved a defense to complement a decent running game.

The Packers and Buccaneers need more drafts to threaten anyone for a playoff spot.

NFC West



JIM EVERETT

RAMS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lansford, 85 points on 34 extra points and 20 field goals... 8th
RUSHING—Dickerson, 1,821 yards on 404 carries, 4.5 avg., 11 TDs... 1st
PASSING—Everett, 73 of 147 attempts for 1,018 yards and 8 TDs... unranked
RECEIVING—Ellard, 34 receptions for 447 yards, 13.1 avg., 4 TDs... 42nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Gray, 8 for 101 yards, 12.6 avg., 4th
PUNTING—Hatcher, 97 punts, 38.6 avg., longest 57 yards... 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Sutton, 28 for 234 yards, 8.4 avg., 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Brown, 36 for 794 yards, 22.1 avg., 5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 9 Denver (at Wembley Stadium, London, England)
 13 SEATTLE (N)
 23 At San Diego (N)
 29 DENVER (N)
 September 5 WASHINGTON (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

		1986 SCORES
September	13 At Houston	—
	20 MINNESOTA	—
	27 CINCINNATI	—
October	4 At New Orleans	0-6
	11 PITTSBURGH	—
	18 At Atlanta	14-26
	26 At Cleveland (N)	—
November	1 SAN FRANCISCO	16-13
	8 NEW ORLEANS	26-13
	15 At St. Louis	16-10
	23 At Washington (N)	—
	29 TAMPA BAY	(OT) 26-20
December	6 At Detroit	14-10
	13 ATLANTA	14-7
	21 DALLAS (N)	29-10
	27 At San Francisco (N)	14-24

LOS ANGELES RAMS

No more Mr. Nice Guy for the Los Angeles Rams. After years of consistently playing well enough to stay on the fringe of the playoffs, they are going to start this season with a real, live, young, bona fide quarterback. Somehow, the Rams always have managed to win without paying much attention to the one position everyone else considers vital. They've had runners and blockers and tacklers and even some marvelous receivers, but when it came to quarterback, they made do.

Finally, after Dieter Brock and Steve Bartkowski followed in the faint footsteps of re-treads such as Bert Jones and Joe Namath, the Rams decided to go all out for a quarterback who could do more than hand off to Eric Dickerson. They sent two good linemen—Kent Hill and William Fuller—and two No. 1 draft choices plus a No. 5 to the Houston Oilers for Jim Everett. Such a payout automatically elevated Everett from a normal No. 1 into a franchise savior. Everett added to his own

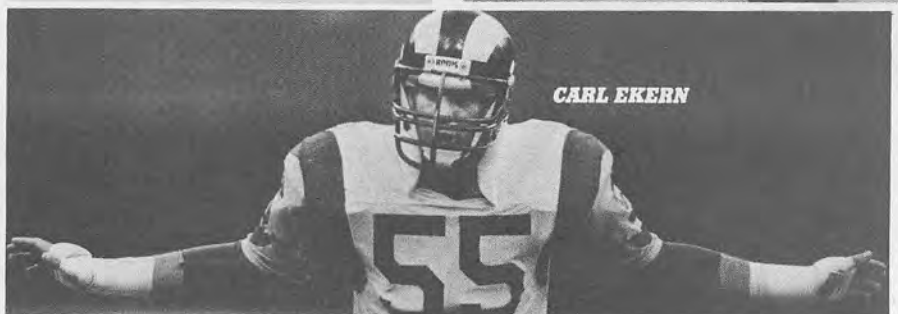
pressure by throwing three touchdown passes in his debut two months after his arrival. This is what the Rams have been waiting for all their lives.

Still, the Rams blew the NFC West title in the final weeks of the season when they lost to Miami in overtime and to San Francisco when all was on the line. They staggered into the playoffs as a wild card and staggered home 19-7 losers to the Redskins in Washington.

Something was missing and coach John Robinson hopes he has found it. He hired offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese away from the San Diego Chargers to incorporate the famous Charger passing attack with Robinson's famous ground game. If Zampese can do it without turning Dickerson into a decoy, the Rams have the potential to make everyone chase them. In San Diego, where Zampese said he only followed a trail blazed by Don Coryell and Joe Gibbs, the Chargers put together a passing game that won statistical titles but never Super Bowls. Zampese insists that Dickerson will continue to play the major role in his plans and points out the Chargers



ERIC DICKERSON



CARL EKERN

were best when Chuck Muncie was in his heyday. But it is no easy trick to meld the run and pass so that everybody is happy.

"It's not a case of, 'Gee, let's throw 40 times a game now,'" Robinson explained. "The worst thing in the world for us would be to finish No. 1 in the league in passing. That would be a tragedy. Number four or five wouldn't be bad, though. What we don't want is 20 points between our pass ranking and our run ranking." Last year, the Rams were fourth in rushing and 28th in passing, the second year in a row they ranked last in that category.

"The running attack won't be messed with at all," Zampese said. "Eric Dickerson will get the football. What the Rams want to do is get enough passing to keep teams from jamming the line with eight or nine defensive guys."

Dickerson is the premier runner in the league and appears durable enough to stay on top for years. His total of 1,821 yards last year was the sixth-best in NFL history. Only eight times has an NFL back rushed for more than 1,800 yards and Dickerson has now done it three times in four seasons. Unfortunately, Dickerson led the league in fumbles with 15 and fumbled three more times against Washington in the playoffs, killing the Rams' chances. His fumbling seems to come with the territory. Perhaps a passing attack will al-

lign a season and made the playoffs every year since Robinson took over in 1983, they had the lowest payroll of any team in the playoffs last year. Kevin House, a pickup from Tampa Bay, replaced disappointing speedster Ron Brown at receiver opposite Ellard in the 15th week of the season. Darren Long followed Damone Johnson, Mike Guman, and Tony Hunter as a starter at the U-Back position. Tight end David Hill is the only receiver who started all 16 games.

The Rams always field one of the best offensive lines in football and this year should be no exception. Second-year guard Tom Newberry is the latest potential Pro Bowler on a starting five that had three go to Hawaii last year—guard Dennis Harrah for the fifth time and tackle Jackie Slater and center Doug Smith for the third time. Left tackle Irv Pankey is solid and last year's No. 1 draft choice, Mike Schad, is expected to show something after spending his rookie year on injured reserve. Duval Love and Tony Slaton are backups.

Robinson is happy enough with his offensive potential to have spent his first five draft picks for defense. Since the Rams already were fifth in the league in overall defense, the strategy seems to mirror that of the New York Giants, who finished second in defense and used their first six picks of the 1985 draft for defense. Having given up their first-round choice for Everett, they started in the second round with a boom-or-bust pick in defensive end Donald Evans of Winston-Salem State. He is a former running back and tight end who grew into a 6-2, 267-pound pass rusher with exceptional speed. If he can make the transition, he will give the Rams a needed boost. The starting front three of ends Doug Reed and Reggie Doss and nose tackle Shawn Miller is good, as three-man fronts go, and Charles DeJurnett, Greg Meisner, and Gary Jeter rotate regularly. None is the dominating force every team is seeking. The Rams drafted two other defensive linemen: Northern Illinois' Doug Bartlett and Connecticut's Scott Mersereau.

At linebacker, the Rams have a very good group in starters Mel Owens and Mike Wilcher outside and Mark Jerue and Carl Ekern inside. Ekern made the Pro Bowl and Jerue got honorable mention for an all-NFL team while the best inside linebacker on the team, Jim Collins, was on injured reserve. Owens boasts that nobody runs or passes his way. Add fourth-round pick Larry Kelm of Texas A&M to backups Jim Laughlin, Norwood Vann, Kevin Green, and Cliff Thrift and the competition should be interesting.

The Rams also added help in the secondary, which is traditionally strong. Starting cornerbacks Jerry Gray and LeRoy Irvin are among the best tandems in the league. Both went to the Pro Bowl. Free safety Vince Newsome, playing ahead of Johnnie Johnson, led the club in tackles. Nolan Cromwell remains at strong safety. The newcomer, third-rounder Clifford Hicks of Oregon, will add depth at cornerback and safety.

Place-kicker Mike Lansford and punter Dale Hatcher provide better than average kicking. Although Hatcher lost five yards off his average as a rookie Pro Bowler, he was among league leaders in punts inside the 20. Brown, once the most feared kickoff-return man in the league, did not score a touchdown. Ellard got help from Mickey Sutton as a punt returner.

RAMS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
89	Brown, Ron	WR	5-11	181	26	3	Arizona State
53	Busick, Steve	LB	6-4	227	28	7	USC
50	Collins, Jim	LB	6-2	235	29	7	Syracuse
72	Cox, Robert	OT	6-4	255	24	R	UCLA
21	Cromwell, Nolan	S	6-1	200	32	10	Kansas
70	DeJurnett, Charles	NT	6-4	260	35	12	San Jose St.
29	Dickerson, Eric	RB	6-3	218	27	4	SMU
8	Dils, Steve	QB	6-1	191	32	8	Stanford
71	Doss, Reggie	DE	6-4	263	31	9	Hampton Inst.
55	Ekern, Carl	LB	6-3	230	33	10	San Jose State
80	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	175	26	4	Fresno State
11	Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	24	R	Purdue
48	Fox, Tim	S	5-11	186	34	11	Ohio State
63	Goebel, Hank	OT	6-7	270	22	R	Fullerton St.
25	Gray, Jerry	CB	6-0	185	27	2	Texas
91	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	238	27	2	Auburn
44	Guman, Mike	RB	6-2	218	29	8	Penn State
60	Harrah, Dennis	G	6-5	265	34	12	Miami
3	Hatcher, Dale	P	6-2	200	24	2	Clemson
81	Hill, David	TE	6-2	240	33	11	Texas A&I
83	House, Kevin	WR	6-1	185	30	7	Southern Illinois
87	Hunter, Tony	TE	6-4	237	27	5	Notre Dame
47	Irvin, LeRoy	CB	5-11	184	30	7	Kansas
59	Jerue, Mark	LB	6-3	232	27	4	Washington
77	Jeter, Gary	DE	6-4	260	32	10	USC
86	Johnson, Damone	TE	6-4	230	25	R	Cal Poly SLO
20	Johnson, Johnnie	S	6-1	183	31	7	Texas
1	Lansford, Mike	PK	6-0	183	29	5	Washington
57	Laughlin, Jim	LB	6-1	222	29	7	Ohio State
45	Long, Darren	TE	6-3	240	28	R	Long Beach St.
67	Love, Duval	G	6-3	263	24	2	UCLA
90	McDonald, Mike	LB	6-1	230	29	3	USC
69	Meisner, Greg	NT	6-3	253	28	6	Pittsburgh
12	Millen, Hugh	QB	6-4	212	23	R	Washington
98	Miller, Shawn	NT	6-4	255	26	3	Utah State
66	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	279	25	R	Wis.-LaCrosse
22	Newsome, Vince	S	6-1	179	26	4	Washington
58	Owens, Mel	LB	6-2	224	29	6	Michigan
75	Pankey, Irv	T	6-4	267	29	7	Penn State
30	Redden, Barry	RB	5-10	205	27	5	Richmond
93	Reed, Doug	DE	6-3	262	27	3	San Diego St.
76	Schad, Mike	OT	6-5	285	23	R	Queens College
97	Schamel, Duke	LB	6-2	220	24	1	South Dakota
48	Scott, Chuck	WR	6-2	202	24	1	Vanderbilt
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	271	33	11	Jackson State
61	Slaton, Tony	C	6-4	265	26	3	USC
56	Smith, Doug	C	6-3	253	31	9	Bowling Green
49	Sutton, Mickey	CB	5-8	165	27	R	Montana
52	Thrift, Cliff	LB	6-2	235	31	8	E. Central Okla.
32	Tyrell, Tim	RB	6-1	201	26	3	Northern Ill.
51	Vann, Norwood	LB	6-1	225	25	3	East Carolina
33	White, Charles	RB	5-10	190	29	6	USC
54	Wilcher, Mike	LB	6-3	240	27	4	North Carolina
99	Wright, Alvin	NT	6-2	285	26	R	Jacksonville St.
88	Young, Michael	WR	6-1	185	25	2	UCLA

DRAFTED

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Evans, Donald	DE	6-2	267	Winston-Salem
3	Hicks, Clifford	DB	5-10	183	Oregon
4	Bartlett, Doug	DL	6-2	250	N. Illinois
4	Kelm, Larry	LB	6-4	226	Texas A&M
5	Mersereau, Scott	DT	6-4	275	S. Connecticut
6	Embree, Jon	TE	6-1	229	Colorado
8	Stewart, Michael	DB	5-11	193	Fresno State
9	Ham, Tracy	RB	5-9	185	Ga. Southern
10	Smith, David	LB	6-7	230	North Arizona
12	Williams, Alonzo	RB	5-9	190	Mesa College
12	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	251	Ga. Southern



leviate the pressure he must feel to carry an entire team without dropping it. With Dickerson around, the outstanding talent and contributions of fellow running back Barry Redden are often lost. Redden gained 467 yards, no easy task on a team with Dickerson.

Although Everett's impact was notable and he quickly earned the respect of his teammates, his statistics for his five-game stint were below average. He completed only 49.7 percent of his passes and threw as many interceptions as touchdowns (8). The benefit of a training camp should make a considerable difference. Steve Dils and second-year prospect Hugh Millen will back up Everett.

The Rams' passing game also suffered last year from a lack of continuity at other positions. Receiver Henry Ellard ended up leading the club in receptions despite sitting out seven games in a contract dispute that may reflect deepening potential problems with the franchise. Although they have averaged 10



NFC West SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

The San Francisco 49ers were on their way toward a very satisfying season after a remarkable comeback by quarterback Joe Montana when suddenly, they were left to ponder the future in the wake of a 49-3 playoff loss to the New York Giants.

The Giants had a way of forcing teams to stop and think. The Chicago Bears had a similar effect a year earlier, as did the 49ers themselves in 1984. Opponents who thought they were pretty good found out they had pretty far to go to catch up. In all three cases, defense made the difference. For the Bears and Giants, linebackers made the difference. The 49ers don't appear to have the linebackers, but defense was the strength of their team again in 1986.

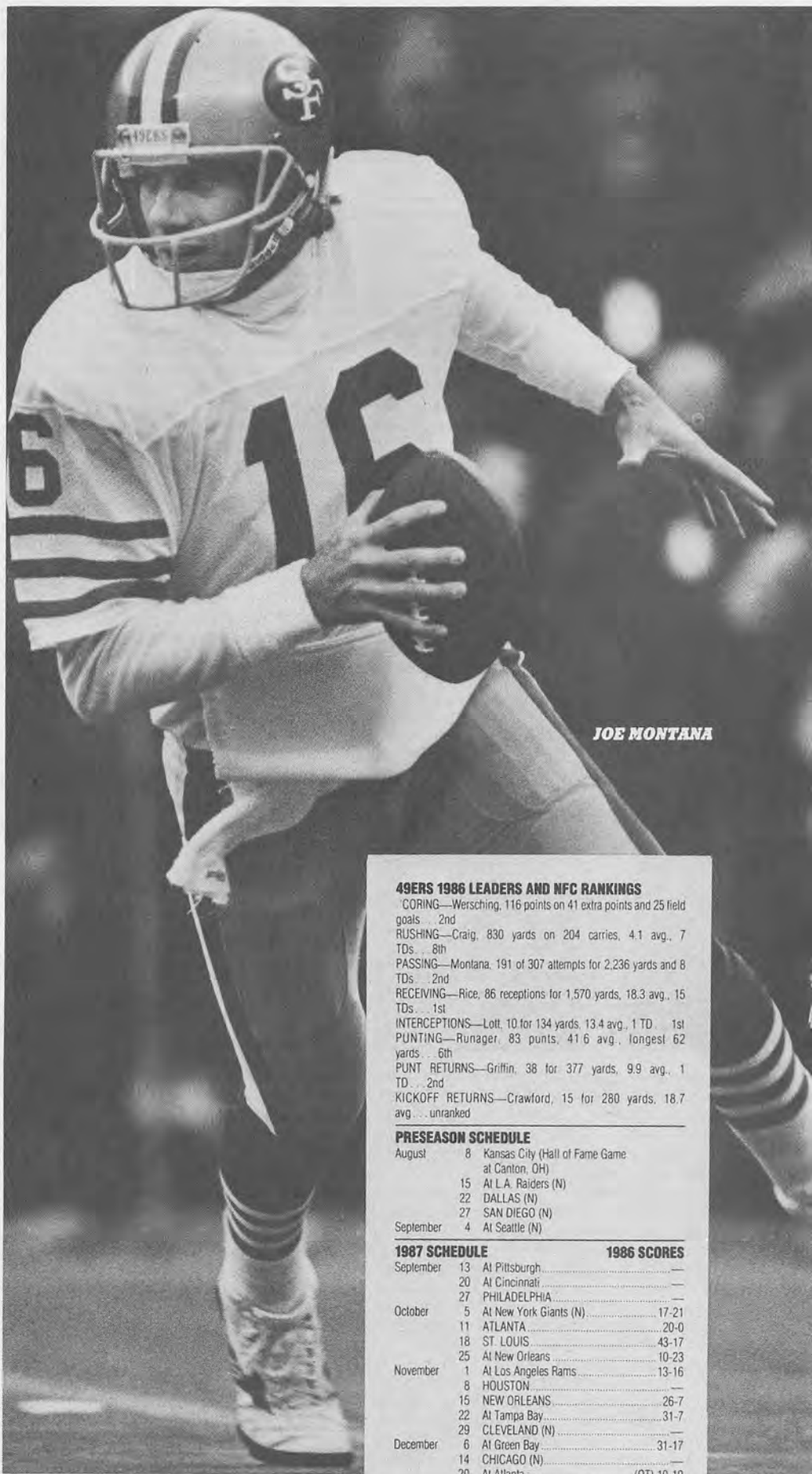
This is a good sign because the 49ers are in the process of revamping their offense from front to back. Coach Bill Walsh even made arrangements for the eventual exit of his great quarterback by acquiring the promising and talented Steve Young from the beleaguered Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Walsh wants Montana to gain 10 pounds in order to regain the strength he claims Montana lost after back surgery early in the season. After missing only eight games, Montana made a comeback that surprised even his surgeon. Although he was shaky at times, ran stiffly, and didn't have the same zip on the ball, the 49ers rallied to win their division. Then reality hit in the form of Giants' nose tackle Jim Burt, who knocked Montana unconscious while he threw an interception returned for a touchdown by linebacker Lawrence Taylor.

"More than anything, Joe's loss of weight through surgery affected him the most," Walsh said. "He never really gained it back, and he wasn't as strong as he was accustomed to." According to Montana, Walsh is always wanting him to gain weight.

Montana remains the key to the 49ers, although Young is an interesting addition. When Montana was hurt, Jeff Kemp filled in admirably. But Young arrives with more fanfare and more potential after suffering with the lowly Bucs. According to some people, Young has been a disappointment. According to people like Bears' coach Mike Ditka, he was a steal for the 49ers, who got him for second- and fourth-round draft choices and cash. "You don't come in and replace a legend," Young said. "I think they made this move because they want me to come in and take over when Joe Montana retires, whenever that is."

Changes in other areas of the offense are first on the agenda. "We are reaching a developmental time, but it's not a time in which we are devoting to rebuilding this team. That's not how we're looking at it," Walsh said. "Some of our older players are nearing the end of their careers and our younger players will contend for starting jobs."

Knee surgery to wide receiver Dwight Clark threatens his career and leaves a potential open spot opposite all-pro receiver Jerry Rice. In his second season, Rice had 86 catches for 1,570 yards and 14 touchdowns and scored a 15th on a reverse. Nobody was better than Rice in 1986, even though the memory of a dropped touchdown in the Giants' loss haunted his offseason. On the other side, Walsh has hopes for second-year man John Taylor of Delaware State, who spent his rookie season on injured reserve. After he got



JOE MONTANA

49ERS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

CORING—Wersching, 116 points on 41 extra points and 25 field goals... 2nd
RUSHING—Craig, 830 yards on 204 carries, 4.1 avg., 7 TDs... 8th
PASSING—Montana, 191 of 307 attempts for 2,236 yards and 8 TDs... 2nd
RECEIVING—Rice, 86 receptions for 1,570 yards, 18.3 avg., 15 TDs... 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Lott, 10 for 134 yards, 13.4 avg., 1 TD... 1st
PUNTING—Runager, 83 punts, 41.6 avg., longest 62 yards... 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Griffin, 38 for 377 yards, 9.9 avg., 1 TD... 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Crawford, 15 for 280 yards, 18.7 avg... unranked

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 Kansas City (Hall of Fame Game at Canton, OH)
 15 At L.A. Raiders (N)
 22 DALLAS (N)
 27 SAN DIEGO (N)
 September 4 At Seattle (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September 13 At Pittsburgh
 20 At Cincinnati
 27 PHILADELPHIA
 October 5 At New York Giants (N) 17-21
 11 ATLANTA 20-0
 18 ST. LOUIS 43-17
 25 At New Orleans 10-23
 November 1 At Los Angeles Rams 13-16
 8 HOUSTON
 15 NEW ORLEANS 26-7
 22 At Tampa Bay 31-7
 29 CLEVELAND (N)
 December 6 At Green Bay 31-17
 14 CHICAGO (N)
 20 At Atlanta (OT) 10-10
 27 LOS ANGELES RAMS (N) 24-14

well, he had practices that made coaches drool. Veteran Ken Margerum and young Derrick Crawford are the other backups in a thin group without Clark. Fifth-round receiver Paul Jokisch, a 6-7 former basketball player at Michigan, may be in the right place at the right time. Age also is creeping up on tight end Russ Francis, who has not been threatened much by young John Frank.

Change is expected at running back after Walsh spent a No. 1 draft choice on Clemson's Terrence Flagler, 5-11, 199-pounder who led his team in rushing last year while playing with Atlanta's second-round choice, Kenny Flowers. "Flagler is a big-play back," Walsh said. "He can make people miss. He has excellent durability and has the speed to go all the way." Flagler is expected to replace the retired Wendell Tyler and take some pressure off workhorse Roger Craig, who suffered from a hip injury last year. Joe Cribbs, who tried to replace Tyler, has yet to look like the back he was in Buffalo and the USFL.

In the offensive line, change will be most apparent after Walsh used his first draft choice to land North Carolina's Harris Barton and his first in the second round to take USC's Jeff Bregel. Barton will challenge right tackle Keith Fahnhorst and Bregel will compete with Guy McIntyre and Jesse Sapolu for Randy Cross's right-guard spot if Cross shifts to center to replace Fred Quillan. At left guard, John Ayers is being challenged by Bruce Collie. Left tackle is in the hands of Bubba Paris, the only offensive lineman who wasn't starting when Walsh arrived eight years ago. "We won two world championships with our offensive line and we're proud of them. But we've taken steps to replace them," Walsh said. "Barton and Bregel are not project-type players. They are capable of stepping in."

The 49ers are not only good on defense, they are young. Still led by the redoubtable Ronnie Lott, it is poised for improvement in

every area. Lott, who could star in every area, finished his first season as a free safety by leading the league in interceptions and again providing inspiration for teammates. Against Green Bay, he banged his leg on a helmet and left the game for two plays. He came back and made 11 tackles and returned an interception for a touchdown only to later discover he had suffered a hairline fracture. Rookie cornerbacks Tim McKyer and Don Griffin were such pleasant surprises that Walsh expects injured all-pro cornerback Eric Wright to return as a safety. How Wright could get much playing time in front of either Lott or strong safety Carlton Williamson is a mystery. At any rate, Wright, Tory Nixon, and Tom Holmoe are nice for any coach to have around.

Up front, second-year ends Charles Haley and Larry Roberts are expected to be big contributors. If nose tackle Michael Carter and end Jeff Stover return to health, they will help veteran Dwaine Board anchor the line. A comeback by injured draft choice Kevin Fagan would also be a plus.

Like everyone else, Walsh is looking for impact linebackers, or at least enough tacklers to stop people before they get to the secondary. Walsh is expecting more from Tom Cousineau and he hopes talented Todd Shell can escape the injury plague. The 49ers finished

up with Milt McColl and Keena Turner outside and Riki Ellison and Jim Fahnhorst inside. A breakthrough could come from sixth-round draft choice Bob White of Penn State. Although the 6-2, 246-pounder played three years at tackle, he is projected as a linebacker and maybe the aura of Linebacker U. rubbed off.

The 49ers used a seventh-round choice to take Colorado State place-kicker Steve Deline, an indication of the end of the line for 37-year-old Ray Wersching. Max Runager is the punter. Griffin did double duty as a cornerback and punt-return man; Crawford was the No. 1 kickoff returner. Special teams as well as receiving should benefit with the recovery of Carl Monroe from a groin injury.

49ERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	NFL exp.	college
68	Ayers, John	G	6-5	265	34	11	West Texas St.
76	Board, Dwaine	DE	6-5	248	31	8	N.C. A&T
59	Browner, Keith	LB	6-6	245	25	4	Southern Cal.
95	Carter, Michael	NT	6-2	285	27	4	SMU
87	Clark, Dwight	WR	6-4	215	30	9	Clemson
69	Collie, Bruce	OL	6-6	275	25	3	Texas-Arlington
57	Cousineau, Tom	LB	6-3	225	30	6	Ohio State
33	Craig, Roger	FB	6-0	224	27	5	Nebraska
83	Crawford, Derrick	WR	5-10	185	27	2	Memphis State
28	Cribbs, Joe	RB	5-11	193	29	7	Auburn
51	Cross, Randy	G	6-3	265	33	12	UCLA
64	Durrette, Michael	G	6-4	280	30	3	West Virginia
50	Ellison, Riki	LB	6-2	225	27	2	Southern Cal.
79	Fagan, Kevin	DT	6-3	260	24	1	Miami
55	Fahnhorst, Jim	LB	6-4	230	29	4	Minnesota
71	Fahnhorst, Keith	T	6-6	273	35	14	Minnesota
54	Ferrari, Ron	LB	6-0	215	28	6	Illinois
81	Francis, Russ	TE	6-6	242	34	12	Oregon
86	Frank, John	TE	6-3	225	25	4	Ohio State
49	Fuller, Jeff	S-LB	6-2	216	25	4	Texas A&M
11	Gagliano, Bob	QB	6-3	195	29	4	Utah State
29	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	23	2	Middle Tenn. St.
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	230	23	2	James Madison
24	Harmon, Derrick	RB	5-10	202	24	4	Cornell
75	Harty, John	DE	6-4	260	29	6	Iowa
89	Heller, Ron	TE	6-3	235	24	1	Oregon St.
46	Holmoe, Tom	S	6-2	195	27	4	Brigham Young
67	Kugler, Pete	DL	6-4	255	28	5	Penn. State
42	Lott, Ronnie	S	6-0	200	28	7	Southern Cal.
84	Margerum, Ken	WR	6-0	180	29	6	Stanford
53	McColl, Milt	LB	6-6	230	28	7	Stanford
62	McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	264	26	4	Georgia
22	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-0	174	24	2	Texas-Arlington
32	Monroe, Carl	WR	5-8	180	27	5	Utah
16	Montana, Joe	CB	6-2	195	31	9	Notre Dame
20	Nixon, Tory	CB	5-11	186	25	3	San Diego St.
77	Paris, William	T	6-6	299	27	5	Michigan
56	Quillan, Fred	C	6-5	266	31	10	Oregon
44	Rathman, Tom	FB	6-1	232	25	2	Nebraska
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	25	3	Miss. Valley St.
30	Ring, Bill	FB	5-10	205	31	7	Brigham Young
91	Roberts, Larry	DE	6-3	264	24	2	Alabama
65	Rogers, Doug	DE	6-5	280	27	5	Stanford
25	Rogers, Jimmy	RB	5-10	190	32	6	Oklahoma
4	Runager, Max	P	6-1	189	31	9	South Carolina
61	Sapolu, Jesse	LB	6-4	260	26	2	Hawaii
90	Shell, Todd	OL	6-4	225	25	3	Brigham Young
72	Stover, Jeff	DE	6-5	275	29	6	Oregon
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	25	1	Delaware St.
78	Tuiasosopo, Manu	NT	6-3	262	30	9	UCLA
58	Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	222	29	8	Purdue
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	276	23	2	Auburn
99	Waller, Michael	LB	6-3	238	27	5	Oregon
14	Wersching, Ray	PK	5-11	215	37	15	California
27	Williamson, Carlton	S	6-0	204	29	7	Pittsburgh
85	Wilson, Mike	WR	6-3	215	29	7	Washington St.
21	Wright, Eric	CB	6-1	185	29	7	Missouri
	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	200	26	3	BYU

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Barton, Harris	OT	6-3	280	North Carolina
1	Flagler, Terrence	RB	5-11	199	Clemson
2	Bregel, Jeff	G	6-4	280	Southern Cal.
5	Jokisch, Paul	TE	6-7	230	Michigan
6	White, Bob	LB	6-2	246	Penn. State
7	Deline, Steve	PK	5-11	180	Colorado State
8	Grayson, David	LB	6-2	220	Fresno State
9	Shelley, Jonathan	DB	6-0	176	Mississippi
10	Paye, John	QB	6-3	205	Stanford
11	Nicholas, Calvin	WR	6-4	208	Grambling



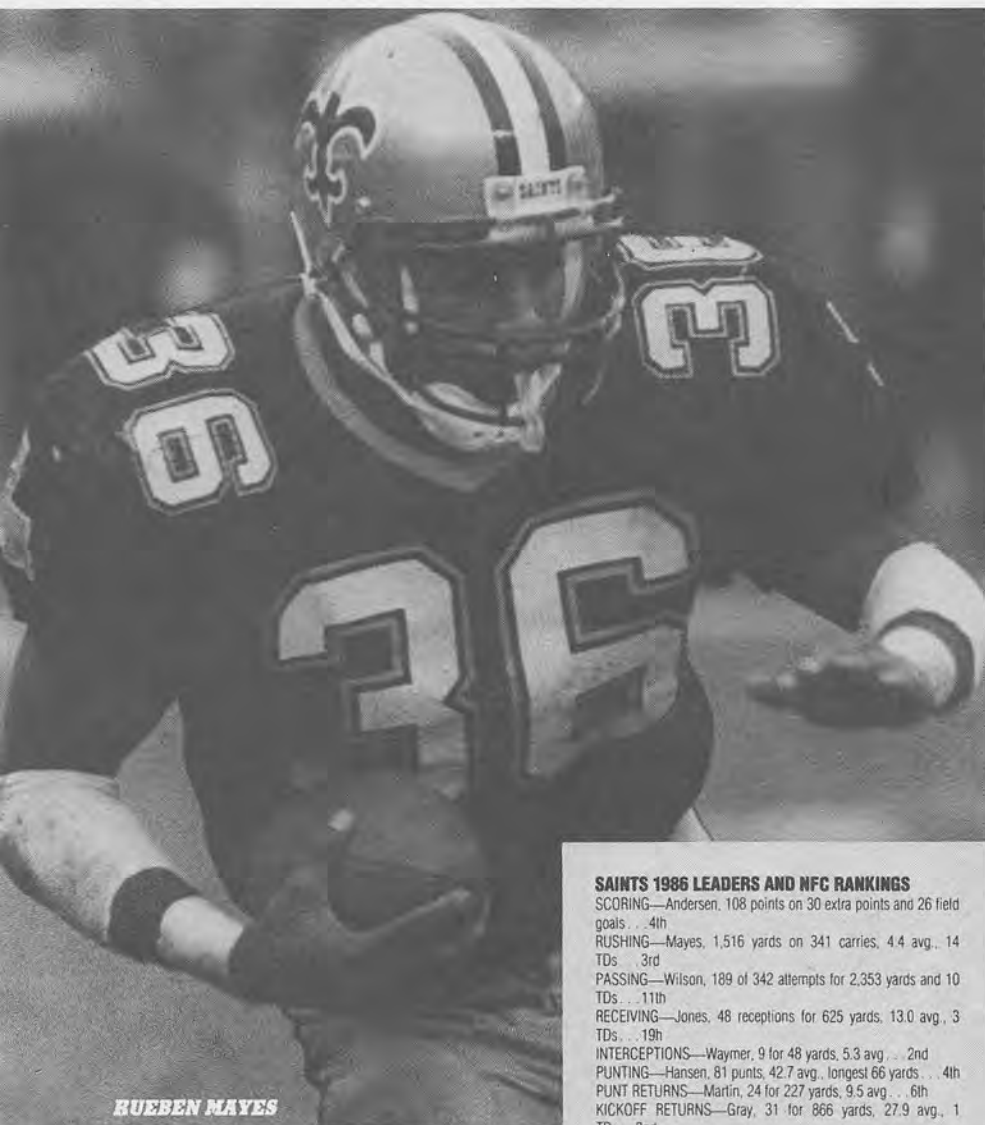
JERRY RICE



ROGER CRAIG



RONNIE LOTT



RUEBEN MAYES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The New Orleans Saints are getting closer to a significant milestone in their history: a winning season. The law of averages is bound to push this average team over the brink someday. In their first year in New Orleans, general manager Jim Finks and coach Jim Mora fashioned a 7-9 record after a 1-4 start, an indication that momentum is headed in the right direction. To keep it going, the Saints need some luck in the area of health and continued development from good, young players.

"We're a long way from being good enough," Mora said. "We made some progress, sure, but I'm not happy with a 7-9 record. We were better as a team at the end of the season. We have a nucleus of talent, but we've got to add to it."

Winning more than they lose would be a significant accomplishment in a division that includes the Rams and 49ers. How long before the inevitable? It's still long enough, apparently, for Finks to maintain his pattern of loading up on linemen before adding such skill positions as quarterbacks to his roster.

The Saints paid Bobby Hebert a \$1.2 million signing bonus to help solve their quarterbacking problems. In game three, he broke his foot and was replaced by Dave Wilson. Mora liked

Finks used similar philosophy in building the Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears into contenders. Only when he felt his lines were big and strong and deep enough did he consider the quarterbacking. At this draft, he fooled most observers by again passing up the so-called skill positions in the first round and opting for 6-6, 288-pound defensive tackle Shawn Knight, thus strengthening an area that was already strong by Saints' standards.

Getting receivers for the quarterbacks seemed more pressing than getting quarterbacks, so the Saints used their second-round pick to land Washington's Lonzell "Mo" Hill, hoping the luck of the Evergreen State will hold up for two years. If Hill is anything like last year's No. 3 draft choice, Washington State running back Rueben Mayes, the Saints will have struck lightning twice. The son of former pro J.D. Hill, Lonzell is expected to complement top receiver Mike Jones at a position that has plagued the Saints for years. They have used high draft choices before at wide receiver to no avail. Hill will push Eric Martin, who caught a pass in every game last year but led the club in drops. At tight end, Hoby Brenner and John Tice block better than they catch, although they combined for 59 receptions.

Mayes was the surprise of the draft to everyone including the Saints, who had chosen LSU running back Dalton Hilliard ahead of him. After Mayes took over in game five, he became offensive rookie of the year by gaining 1,353 yards. More remarkable, he did it

SAINTS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Andersen, 108 points on 30 extra points and 26 field goals . . . 4th
RUSHING—Mayes, 1,516 yards on 341 carries, 4.4 avg., 14 TDs . . . 3rd
PASSING—Wilson, 189 of 342 attempts for 2,353 yards and 10 TDs . . . 11th
RECEIVING—Jones, 48 receptions for 625 yards, 13.0 avg., 3 TDs . . . 19th
INTERCEPTIONS—Waymer, 9 for 48 yards, 5.3 avg. . . 2nd
PUNTING—Hansen, 81 punts, 42.7 avg., longest 66 yards . . . 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 24 for 227 yards, 9.5 avg. . . 6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Gray, 31 for 866 yards, 27.9 avg., 1 TD . . . 2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 MINNESOTA (N)
22 HOUSTON (N)
29 PITTSBURGH (N)
September 4 At Cincinnati (N)

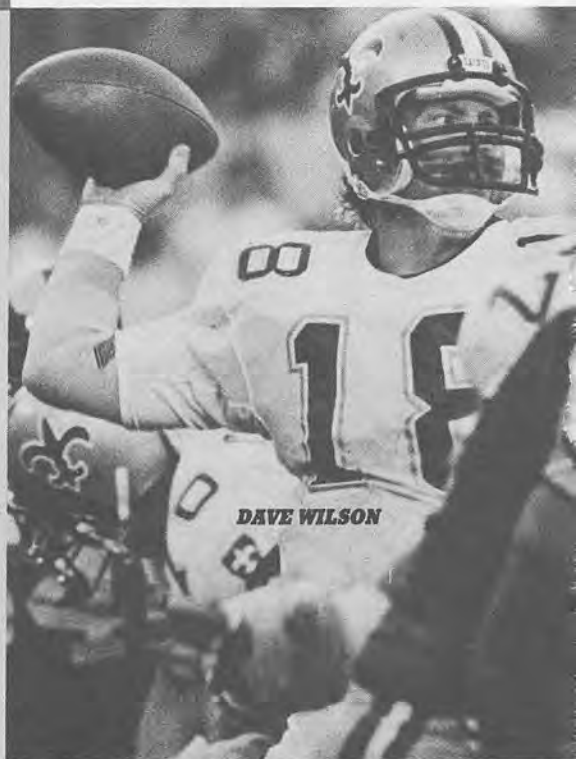
1987 SCHEDULE

1987 SCHEDULE	1986 SCORES
September 13 CLEVELAND	10-31
20 At Philadelphia	6-0
27 ATLANTA	16-7
October 4 LOS ANGELES RAMS	23-10
11 At St. Louis	14-9
18 At Chicago	13-26
25 SAN FRANCISCO	17-26
November 1 At Atlanta	17-20
8 At Los Angeles Rams	38-7
15 At San Francisco	24-10
22 NEW YORK GIANTS	
29 At Pittsburgh	
December 6 TAMPA BAY	
13 HOUSTON	
20 At Cincinnati	
27 GREEN BAY	

the way Wilson stood in and took his knocks while completing 55 percent of his passes. He guided the Saints to a 6-6 record while throwing for 17 interceptions and 10 touchdowns. Hebert is again expected to challenge for the starting job, but neither quarterback has proven he is the man to lead the Saints to salvation. "We need to get better in other positions. When we do, our quarterbacking will get better," Finks said.

despite an Achilles injury requiring postseason surgery that kept him out of the Pro Bowl. The question of who will team with Mayes is still unanswered because fullback Hokie Gajan's future remains in doubt following major knee surgery. Former USFL player Buford Jordan is an overachiever who filled in nicely.

Despite injury that disrupted continuity, the Saints' offensive line allowed only 27 sacks, a notable accomplishment considering Wil-



DAVE WILSON

son's lack of mobility. Last year's No. 1 draft choice, Jim Dombrowski, is expected to pick up at left tackle where he left off in the third game with a broken foot. Bill Contz took over and finished the season with right tackle Stan Brock, guards Brad Edelman and Chuck Commiskey, and center Steve Korte. Guard Ralph Williams is expected back from knee surgery and versatile Joel Hilgenberg got experience that will whet his appetite for a starting job. Brock is recovering from postseason surgery. Before the draft, Finks said: "I think it would be very tough for a young man to break in on our offensive or defensive lines." That was before he made Boston College guard Steve Trapilo the Saints' fourth-round choice. The 6-5, 280-pound Trapilo has a chance to make it at either guard or tackle.

Finks spoke before he made Knight the No. 1 pick to add to a defensive line that is improving. "Defensively, we played well against the run, not so well against the pass. But we did show improvement in rushing the passer," Mora said. Knight has the kind of size and strength to disrupt the middle of a line the way Dan Hampton does in Chicago when he plays over the nose in special alignments. Where the Brigham Young giant will line up remains to be seen, but there is always room for one more on any defensive line. Left end Bruce Clark is coming off postseason surgery to correct a troublesome knee. Nose tackle Tony Elliott is inconsistent but better than many expected. Jim Wilks played right end and

moved to the nose when Elliot got hurt. Designated pass rushers Frank Warren and James Geathers played very well. Geathers had nine sacks and Warren 8½ to lead the linemen.

Linebacker Rickey Jackson had nine sacks, led the team in tackles, and made his fourth straight Pro Bowl. Mora stuck 5-9, 225-pound USFL stalwart Sam Mills at inside linebacker beside 1985 No. 1 draft choice Alvin Toles and benched former inside starter Jack Del Rio. On the right side, James Haynes played well and will be challenged by second-year man Pat Swilling.

In the secondary, Dave Waymer had a career-high nine interceptions, tying for the league lead among cornerbacks. Johnnie Poe will be challenged by two draft picks: Arkansas State's Michael Adams and Alcorn State's

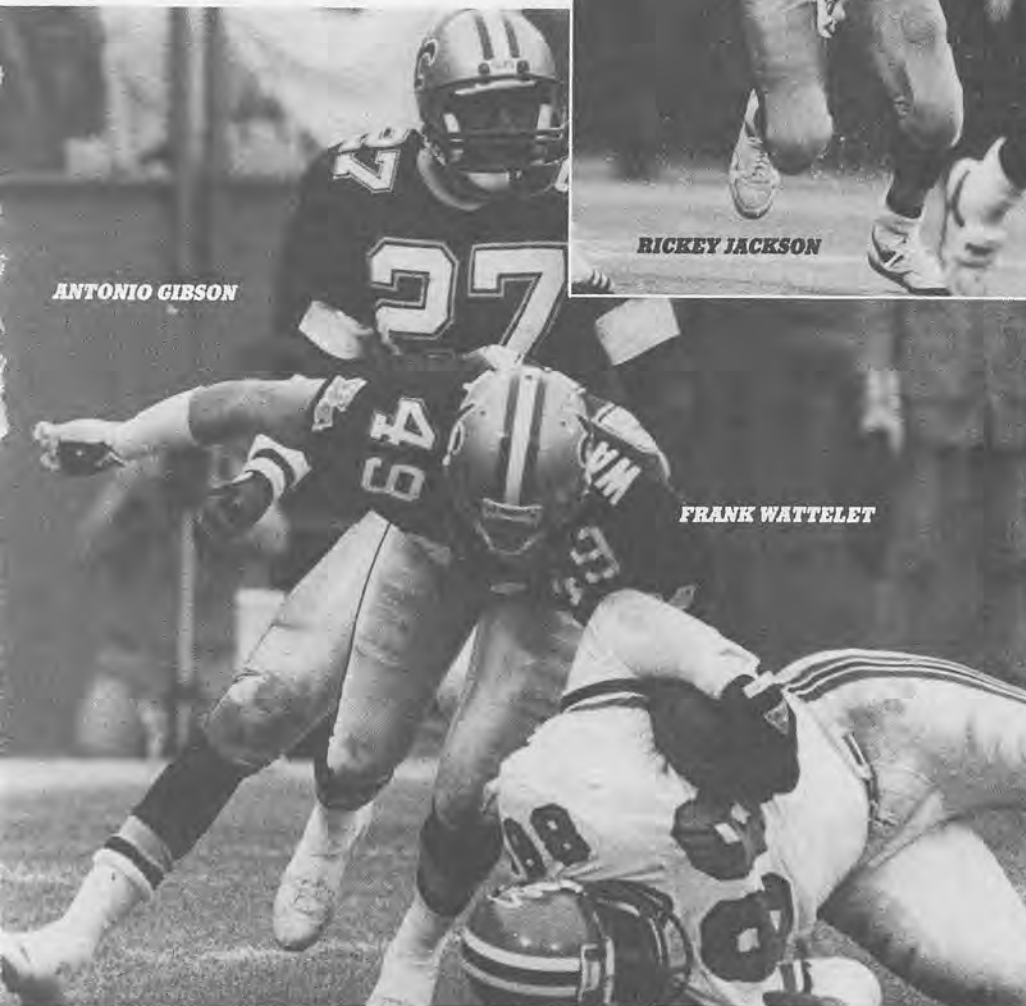
Milton Mack. Both are developing talents with speed. Frank Watelet is the free safety and Antonio Gibson the strong safety. Mora brought from the USFL. Dana McLemore, Bobby Johnson, and Brett Maxie are reserves.

Morten Andersen is a Pro Bowl place-kicker and Mel Gray finished second in the league in kickoff returns. The Saints finished high in punt coverage, but Brian Hansen tailed off after a good start.

"Generally speaking, I like the players' attitude," Mora said. "I liked the way they came back at 1-4, 3-5, and 6-8." The Saints seem to be improving, but Mora doesn't let them coast. "In my six years here, discipline is something we could have used more of," observed Watelet. "Coach Mora has a tough work ethic. That's the way it's got to be."



RICKEY JACKSON



ANTONIO GIBSON

FRANK WATELET

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	NFL exp	college
7	Anderson, Morten	K	6-2	205	27	7	Michigan St.
96	Andrus, Sheldon	NT	6-1	271	25	1	Nicholls St.
85	Brenner, Hobby	TE	6-4	245	28	7	Southern Cal
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	292	29	8	Colorado
75	Clark, Bruce	DE	6-3	274	29	6	Penn State
66	Commiskey, Chuck	G	6-4	290	29	2	Mississippi
70	Contz, Bill	T	6-5	270	26	5	Penn State
50	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	238	24	3	Southern Cal
72	Dombrowski, Jim	T	6-5	298	24	2	Virginia
95	Dumbauld, Jon	NT	6-4	256	24	2	Kentucky
63	Edelman, Brad	G	6-6	270	27	6	Missouri
83	Edwards, Kelvin	WR	6-2	197	23	2	Liberty Baptist
99	Elliott, Tony	NT	6-2	295	28	6	North Texas St.
43	Fowler, Bobby	FB	6-2	225	27	2	Louisiana Tech
46	Gajan, Hokie	FB	5-11	230	28	5	LSU
97	Geathers, James	DE	6-7	290	27	4	Wichita St.
27	Gibson, Antonio	SS	6-3	204	25	2	Cincinnati
77	Gilbert, Daren	T	6-6	295	24	3	Cal Fullerton
88	Goodlow, Eugene	WR	6-2	186	29	5	Kansas State
37	Gray, Mel	RB	5-9	166	26	2	Purdue
10	Hansen, Brian	P	6-3	209	27	4	Sioux Falls
80	Harris, Herbert	WR	6-1	206	26	2	Lamar
92	Haynes, James	LB	6-2	233	27	4	Miss. Valley
3	Hebert, Bobby	QB	6-4	214	27	3	NW Louisiana
61	Hilgenberg, Joel	C-G	6-3	252	25	4	Iowa
40	Hilliard, Dalton	RB	5-8	204	23	2	LSU
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	29	7	Pittsburgh
32	Jakes, Van	DB	6-0	190	26	2	Kent State
24	Johnson, Bobby	DB	6-0	187	27	5	Texas
53	Johnson, Vaughan	LB	6-3	235	25	2	N.C. State
86	Jones, Mike	WR	5-11	183	27	5	Tennessee
23	Jordan, Buford	FB	6-0	223	25	2	McNeese State
55	Kohlbrand, Joe	LB	6-4	242	24	3	Miami
60	Korte, Steve	C	6-2	269	27	5	Arkansas
84	Martin, Eric	WR	6-1	207	26	3	LSU
39	Maxie, Brett	DB	6-2	194	25	3	Texas Southern
36	Mayes, Rueben	RB	5-11	200	24	2	Washington St.
43	McLemore, Dana	DB	5-10	183	27	6	Hawaii
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	28	2	Montclair St.
25	Poe, Johnnie	CB	6-1	194	28	7	Missouri
68	Saindon, Pat	G	6-3	273	26	2	Vanderbilt
56	Swilling, Pat	LB	6-2	242	23	2	Georgia Tech
82	Tice, John	TE	6-5	249	27	5	Maryland
54	Toles, Alvin	LB	6-1	227	24	3	Tennessee
73	Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	290	28	7	Auburn
33	Walters, Mike	FB	6-2	230	25	2	San Diego St.
49	Wattelet, Frank	FS	6-0	186	29	7	Kansas
44	Waymer, Dave	DB	6-1	188	29	8	Notre Dame
69	Weaver, Emanuel	NT	6-5	285	27	2	South Carolina
94	Wilks, Jim	DE	6-5	266	29	7	San Diego St.
45	Williams, John	FB	5-11	205	27	3	Wisconsin
79	Williams, Ralph	G	6-3	298	29	5	Southern
18	Wilson, Dave	QB	6-3	206	28	6	Illinois

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Knight, Shawn	DT	6-6	288	BYU
2	Hill, Lonzell	WR	5-11	189	Washington
3	Adams, Michael	DB	5-10	195	Arkansas St.
4	Trapilo, Steve	G	6-5	280	Boston Coll.
5	Mack, Milton	DB	5-11	182	Alcorn State
6	Henley, Thomas	WR	5-10	173	Stanford
7	Atkins, Gene	DB	6-1	200	Florida A&M
8	Cook, Toi	DB	5-11	188	Stanford
9	Leach, Scott	LB	6-2	221	Ohio State
10	Clark, Robert	WR	5-11	175	N. C. Central
11	Wells, Arthur	TE	6-4	236	Grambling
12	Sorrells, Tyrone	OT	6-3	265	Georgia Tech



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NFC West ATLANTA FALCONS

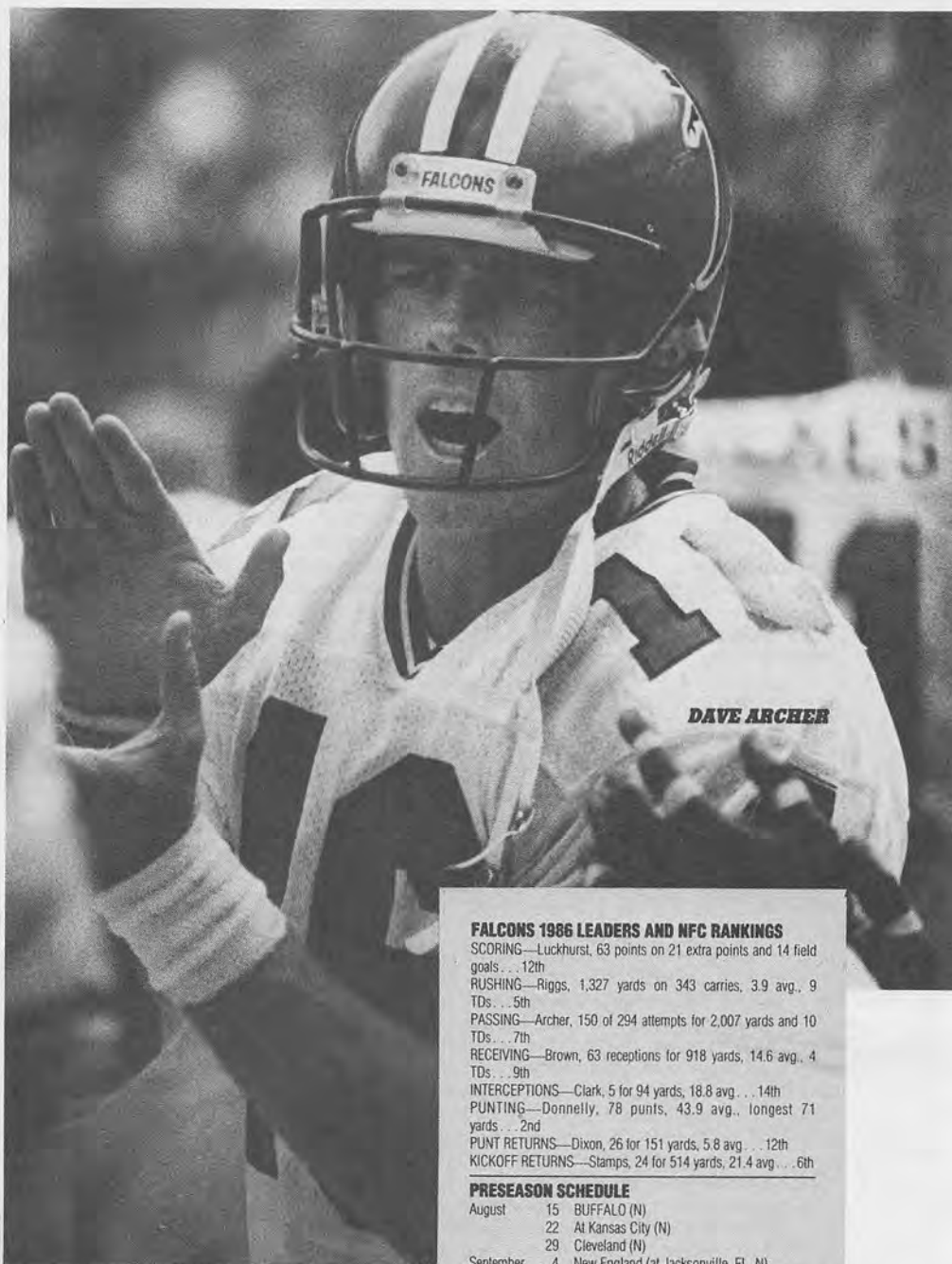
Football is a sport that seems to take funnier bounces in Atlanta than in many other parts of the country. Take coach Marion Campbell, who is bouncing back as head coach of the Falcons after previous stints in Atlanta (1974-76) and Philadelphia (1983-85). Atlanta owner Rankin Smith Sr. spent 43 days trying to find the successor for fired Dan Henning after the Falcons completed their fourth straight losing season, 7-8-1. "We looked all over the world for a guy we thought could do the job when the best man was right here all along," said Smith.

Dick Vermeil turned them down, then Terry Donahue. After the names of Howard Schnellenberger, David Shula, Bill Parcells, and Dan Reeves came up, Smith turned to Henning's defensive coordinator, Campbell, the 57-year-old Swamp Fox.

"Although we had a lot of fun poked at us, I know for a fact they weren't offering this job to every Tom, Dick, and Harry," Campbell said. "They set their sights high with the people they talked to, and then for me to step up next didn't bother me... and it didn't surprise me."

Campbell had helped turn the Falcon defense from 25th in the league to 7th only one year after Henning talked him into taking the job. But Henning must get a lot of credit for drafting nose tackle Tony Casillas ahead of quarterback Jim Everett. After the offense-oriented Henning was gone, defense-minded Campbell drafted Oregon quarterback Chris Miller No. 1. It wasn't the first time Campbell has provided a club with a quarterback of the future. He drafted Steve Bartkowski No. 1 in Atlanta in 1975 and drafted Randall Cunningham No. 2 in Philadelphia in 1985. This time, Campbell hopes to stick around long enough to enjoy the future.

"I don't intend on making a lot of wholesale changes," Campbell said. "Our moves will be



DAVE ARCHER

FALCONS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Luckhurst, 63 points on 21 extra points and 14 field goals... 12th
RUSHING—Riggs, 1,327 yards on 343 carries, 3.9 avg., 9 TDs... 5th
PASSING—Archer, 150 of 294 attempts for 2,007 yards and 10 TDs... 7th
RECEIVING—Brown, 63 receptions for 918 yards, 14.6 avg., 4 TDs... 9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Clark, 5 for 94 yards, 18.8 avg... 14th
PUNTING—Donnelly, 78 punts, 43.9 avg., longest 71 yards... 2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Dixon, 26 for 151 yards, 5.8 avg... 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Stamps, 24 for 514 yards, 21.4 avg... 6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 BUFFALO (N)
22 At Kansas City (N)
29 CLEVELAND (N)
September 4 New England (at Jacksonville, FL, N)

1987 SCHEDULE

		1986 SCORES
September	13 At Tampa Bay.....	23-20
	20 WASHINGTON.....	
	27 At New Orleans.....	31-10
October	4 PITTSBURGH.....	
	11 At San Francisco.....	0-20
	18 LOS ANGELES RAMS.....	26-14
	25 At Houston.....	
November	1 NEW ORLEANS.....	9-14
	8 At Cleveland.....	
	15 CINCINNATI.....	
	22 At Minnesota.....	
	29 ST. LOUIS.....	33-13
December	6 At Dallas.....	37-35
	13 At Los Angeles Rams.....	7-14
	20 SAN FRANCISCO.....(OT)	10-10
	27 DETROIT.....	20-6

subtle but sound. We have a lot better football team than we did the first time I was named coach here."

The first thing Campbell did was hire former Colts' head coach Rod Dowhower and former Cardinals' head coach Jim Hanifan to run the Falcons' offense. In fact, it may have helped Campbell get the job when the Smith family read that Dowhower and Hanifan were ready to join Campbell. Hanifan and Dowhower helped build the potent offenses of the Cardinals with quarterbacks Jim Hart and Neil Lomax. Miller can be assured of sound schooling in his early years.

The drafting of Miller did not automatically assure him of a starting job, not if David Archer has anything to say about it. The free agent Archer led the league in passing at the start of last season and the Falcons won their first four games. Then in week 11, the Chicago Bears put Archer out for the year with a sepa-

rated shoulder. Miller and Archer are similar in that both are good, mobile athletes. It was reported that Campbell was looking to draft Kelly Stouffer first because of Stouffer's arm strength. But the Cardinals beat him to it. At any rate, the Falcons figure that their quarter-



BILL FRALIC

backing will turn out better than it's been since Bartkowski got old and left. The Falcons finished 25th in passing last year.

Joining assistant head coach and line coach Hanifan and coordinator Dowhower is receivers coach Jimmy Raye, former offensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Raye has a veteran group in starters Charlie Brown and second-year surprise Floyd Dixon plus several post-injury cases looking for comebacks. Those include former USFL players Anthony Allen, Joey Jones, and Aubrey Matthews, veteran Stacey Bailey, and the ageless Billy "White Shoes" Johnson. "Six of our receivers have been starters, so we're experienced here and I'm looking for a big year," Campbell said.

Dowhower and Hanifan are going to vary from Henning's one-back attack and give full-back Gerald Riggs some help. They hope it will come from second-round halfback Kenny Flowers of Clemson, the school's all-time leading rusher. The powerful and durable Riggs gained 1,327 yards and four other runners including Archer gained over 200 yards apiece. The Falcons finished third in the NFL in rushing, but they need more flexibility. During a six-week stretch, Riggs managed only 366 yards on an average of 3.2 yards a carry and scored just two touchdowns. Flowers has the speed and quickness to threaten outside.

The Falcons have the blockers at tight end to get the job done in any sort of running attack. Campbell is looking for "somebody to come out of this group and be a big-play receiver." Starter Arthur Cox, a 255-pounder, had one 100-yard day as a receiver. H-back Ken Whisenhunt also is a good blocker. Campbell will give former running back great William Andrews a chance to play more at tight end.

Hanifan's first wish on the offensive line is for health. Right tackle Brett Miller played only half a season before being sidelined with a knee injury. Center Wayne Radloff, left guard John Scully, right guard Bill Fralic, and left tackle Mike Kenn were generally healthy, but the Falcons drafted Southern Illinois tackle Ralph Van Dyke and Wake Forest guard Paul Kiser in the fourth and sixth rounds to shore up the depth. All-pro guard Fralic filled in at tackle and could star anywhere on the line. But the Falcons want to keep him at guard. Big Glen Howe provided depth at tackle last season, and the Falcons are going to have to find a way to survive without center Jeff Van Note for the first time in 18 years.

Campbell will continue to coordinate a defense that performed surprisingly well in a new system. Known for a bend-but-don't-break philosophy, Campbell's Falcons allowed fewer than 21 points 12 times and finished seventh in yards as well. Switching from the 4-3 to the 3-4 forced several starters to play new positions. Campbell expects even more improvement in 1987.

Casillas made 71 of his 111 tackles in the second half of the season. But he is not a pass rusher and that is an area that needs improvement. The Falcons finished next to last in sacks with only 26. Right end Rick Bryan led the club with seven sacks and made over 100 tackles for the third straight year despite playing with a cracked bone in his leg. Left end Mike Gann led the club in quarterback hurries. Gann, Casillas, and Bryan started every game, but Campbell expects continued sup-

port from Mike Pitts, Andrew Provence, and Dennis Harrison.

The expected development of second-year man Tim Green at linebacker should make a considerable difference. A No. 1 choice along with Casillas last year, Green was hampered by a calf muscle injury. He started the season finale and provided a look into the future by making 12 tackles. Inside linebacker Buddy Curry led the club in tackles for the seventh year in a row and was complemented on the inside by John Rade. Outside backers Reggie Wilkes and Joel Williams started after coming from Philadelphia with Campbell. Wilkes became a coach on the field in the new system. Joe Costello and Aaron Brown are special teams' contributors and backups.

In the secondary, the Falcons got a pleasant surprise when former safety Scott Case was moved to right cornerback and came through with four interceptions and 41 passes defended. Teams constantly went after him and Case usually came through. Left cornerback Bobby Butler played only seven games before breaking his leg, an injury that contributed to the Falcon downfall. He was the only starter from 1985. David Croudp replaced him and got valuable experience. Free safety Bret Clark led the club in interceptions after arriving from the USFL. Free-agent rookie Robert Moore subbed for Kenny Johnson at



strong safety and played well. Wendell Cason, Dennis Woodberry, James Britt, and Jimmy Turner will fight for backup slots.

Back surgery for place-kicker Mick Luckhurst in January put his career in limbo. Ali Haji-Sheikh was signed. Rick Donnelly's punting average of 43.9 was a personal best. White Shoes Johnson keeps adding to his NFL record 3,105 yards in punt returns; Sylvester Stamps is the kickoff-return man.

"The NFL playoff structure allows for strong finishes," Campbell said. "We have to be ready to have a positive attitude all year and then take our chances at the finish."

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
85	Allen, Anthony	WR	5-11	182	28	3	Washington
31	Andrews, William	RB	6-0	220	32	7	Auburn
16	Archer, Dave	QB	6-2	208	25	4	Iowa State
39	Austin, Cliff	RB	6-1	213	27	5	Clemson
82	Bailey, Stacey	WR	6-0	157	27	6	San Jose St.
97	Belk, Veno	TE	6-3	229	24	1	Michigan St.
26	Britt, James	CB	6-0	185	27	5	LSU
52	Brown, Aaron	LB	6-2	238	31	5	Ohio State
89	Brown, Charlie	WR	5-10	164	29	6	S.C. St.
77	Bryan, Rich	DE	6-4	265	25	4	Oklahoma
70	Burnette, Dave	T	6-6	285	26	1	Central Ark.
23	Butler, Bobby	CB	5-11	182	28	7	Florida St.
10	Campbell, Scott	QB	6-0	195	25	4	Purdue
96	Caravello, Joe	NT	6-3	270	24	1	Tulane
25	Case, Scott	CB	6-0	178	25	4	Oklahoma
75	Casillas, Tony	NT	6-3	280	24	2	Oklahoma
20	Cason, Wendell	CB	5-11	197	24	3	Oregon
28	Clark, Bret	S	6-3	198	26	2	Nebraska
56	Costello, Joe	LB	6-3	250	27	2	Central Ct. St.
88	Cox, Arthur	TE	6-2	262	26	5	Texas Southern
30	Croudp, David	CB	5-8	185	28	4	San Diego St.
50	Curry, Buddy	LB	6-4	222	29	8	North Carolina
86	Dixon, Floyd	WR	5-9	170	23	2	S. F. Austin
3	Donnelly, Rich	P	6-0	190	25	3	Wyoming
73	Dukes, Jamie	G	6-1	270	23	2	Florida State
79	Fralic, Bill	OL	6-5	280	25	3	Pittsburgh
76	Gann, Mike	DE	6-5	265	24	3	Notre Dame
99	Green, Tim	LB	6-2	249	24	2	Syracuse
6	Haji-Sheikh, Ali	PK	6-0	172	25	5	Michigan
68	Harrison, Dennis	DE	6-8	280	31	10	Vanderbilt
66	Hinson, Billy	G	6-1	278	24	2	Florida
71	Howe, Glen	T	6-7	298	26	3	So. Mississippi
81	Johnson, Billy	WR	5-9	170	35	13	Widener
43	Jones, Darryl	DB	6-1	195	25	4	Georgia
84	Jones, Joey	WR	5-8	165	25	2	Alabama
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	277	31	10	Michigan
63	Kiewel, Jeff	G	6-3	277	27	2	Arizona
18	Luckhurst, Mick	K	6-1	178	29	7	California
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	25	2	Delta State
40	Meyers, Eddie	RB	5-9	210	28	1	Navy
87	Middleton, Ron	TE	6-2	252	22	2	Auburn
62	Miller, Brett	T	6-7	300	29	5	Iowa
34	Moore, Robert	S	5-11	190	23	2	Northwestern St.
94	Morris, Dwaine	DT	6-2	260	24	1	SE Louisiana
64	Pellegrini, Joe	OL	6-4	265	30	6	Harvard
98	Phillips, Ray	LB	6-3	245	23	1	N.C. St.
74	Pitts, Mike	DE	6-5	277	27	5	Alabama
72	Provence, Andrew	DE	6-3	267	26	5	South Carolina
59	Rade, John	LB	6-1	240	27	5	Boise State
55	Radloff, Wayne	OL	6-5	277	26	3	Georgia
42	Riggs, Gerald	RB	6-1	232	27	6	Arizona State
14	Schonert, Turk	QB	6-1	196	30	8	Stanford
61	Scully, John	G	6-6	270	29	7	Notre Dame
80	Sharp, Dan	TE	6-2	235	25	1	TCU
29	Stamps, Sylvester	RB	5-7	175	26	4	Jackson State
21	Turner, Jimmy	CB	6-0	187	28	5	UCLA
65	Upchurch, Andy	C	6-2	260	25	1	Arkansas St.
45	Whisenhunt, Ken	TE	6-2	233	25	3	Georgia Tech
51	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	6-4	242	31	10	Georgia Tech
54	Williams, Joel	LB	6-1	227	31	9	Wis-La Crosse
35	Williams, Keith	WR/RB	5-10	173	23	2	SW Missouri
22	Woodberry, Dennis	CB	5-10	183	26	2	Sou. Arkansas

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Miller, Chris	QB	6-2	195	Oregon
2	Flowers, Kenny	RB	6-0	207	Clemson
4	Van Dyke, Ralph	OT	6-6	260	So. Illinois
6	Kiser, Paul	G	6-3	272	Wake Forest
7	Reid, Michael	LB	6-2	226	Wisconsin
8	Taliferro, Curtis	LB	6-2	226	Virginia
9	Anthony, Terrance	DB	5-10	183	Iowa State
10	Reese, Jerry	TE	6-2	230	Illinois
11	Shelley, Elbert	DB	5-11	180	Arkansas St.
12	Emory, Larry	RB	5-9	195	Wisconsin

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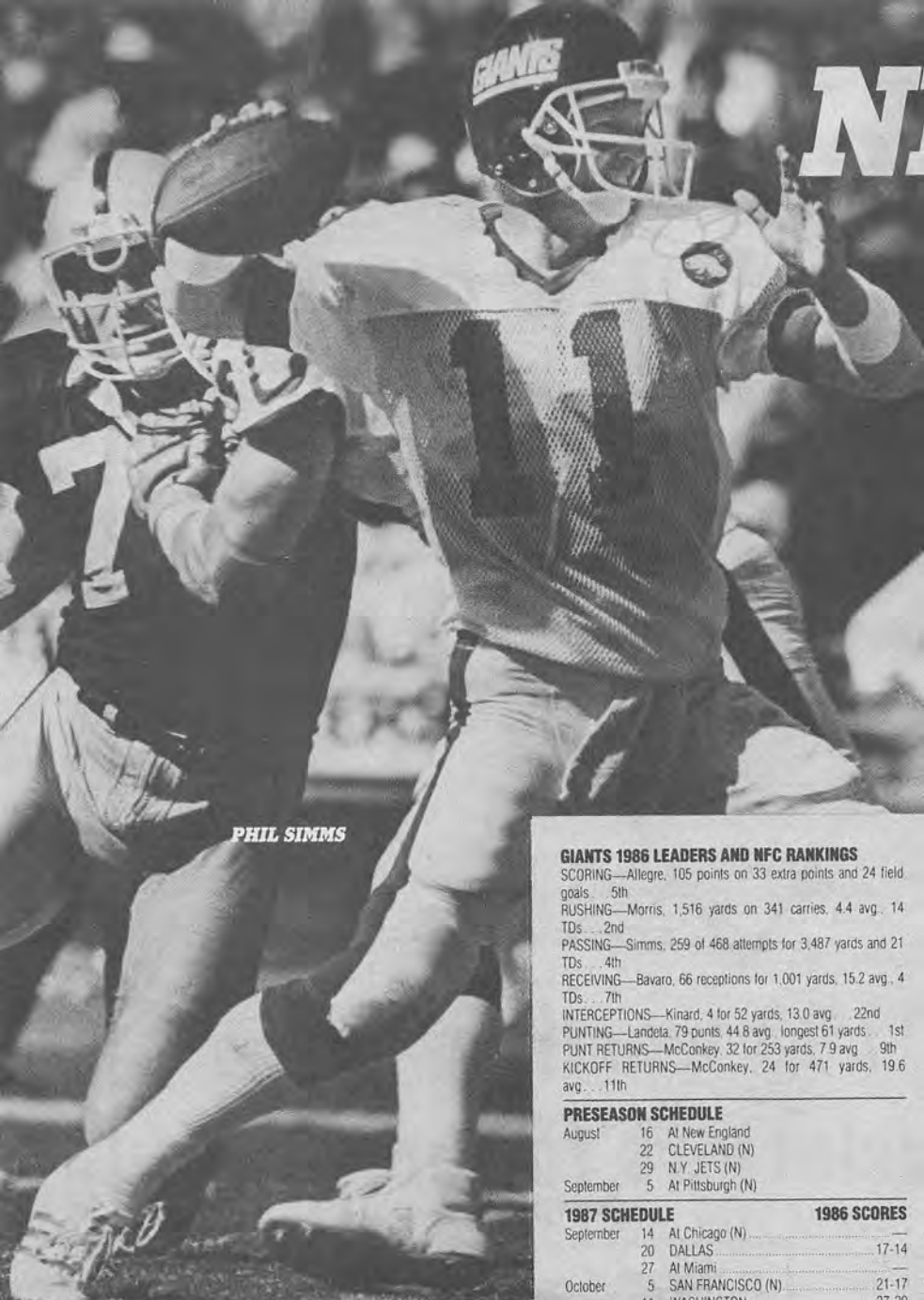
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PHIL SIMMS

against the Bears, the Giants will be on a 12-game winning streak, the longest in their proud history. When Parcells was asked whether he and portly general manager George Young were in danger of becoming fat cats, Parcells responded: "You mean figuratively or literally?" The Giants are a football team that seems most interested in playing football, which in itself may set them apart from recent teams that seem unable to sustain momentum and purpose from one season to the next.

The main plus for the Giants among many is their stability at quarterback, where Phil Simms has established himself among the elite in both productivity and durability. Simms earned every accolade he got in 1986 and his 22-of-25 performance in the Super Bowl is now the standard by which future quarterbacks will be judged in the big game. Simms's accomplishments are all the more remarkable because he managed them without great wide receivers while working behind an offensive line that wasn't supposed to be much better than average. Once injury-plagued, Simms barely allows backups Jeff Rutledge and Jeff Hostetler any playing time at all. Par-

GIANTS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Allegre, 105 points on 33 extra points and 24 field goals. 5th
RUSHING—Morris, 1,516 yards on 341 carries, 4.4 avg., 14 TDs. 2nd
PASSING—Simms, 259 of 468 attempts for 3,487 yards and 21 TDs. 4th
RECEIVING—Bavaro, 66 receptions for 1,001 yards, 15.2 avg., 4 TDs. 7th
INTERCEPTIONS—Kinard, 4 for 52 yards, 13.0 avg., 22nd
PUNTING—Landeta, 79 punts, 44.8 avg., longest 61 yards. 1st
PUNT RETURNS—McConkey, 32 for 253 yards, 7.9 avg., 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—McConkey, 24 for 471 yards, 19.6 avg., 11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 16 At New England
22 CLEVELAND (N)
29 N.Y. JETS (N)
September 5 At Pittsburgh (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

		1986 SCORES
September	14 At Chicago (N)	17-14
	20 DALLAS	17-14
	27 At Miami	21-17
October	5 SAN FRANCISCO (N)	27-20
	11 WASHINGTON	27-20
	18 At Buffalo	27-7
	25 ST. LOUIS	28-31
November	2 At Dallas (N)	17-14
	8 NEW ENGLAND (N)	20-17
	15 At Philadelphia	24-14
	22 At New Orleans	35-3
	29 At Washington	13-6
December	6 PHILADELPHIA	55-24
	13 At St. Louis	
	19 GREEN BAY	
	27 NEW YORK JETS	

NEW YORK GIANTS

The world champion New York Giants open defense of their title on Monday night, September 14, in Chicago against the former world champion Bears. The National Football League doesn't like to prolong suspense. No easing into the season for these guys. If the Giants want to become the first team of the 1980s to repeat, they have to earn it early and often. After the Bears, the Giants get no rest against Dallas, Miami, San Francisco, and Washington in successive weeks.

By October, coach Bill Parcells should know whether his team has a shot again. On paper, there is no reason to think they don't, unless you count the schedule. The Giants ripped through last season without suffering from the one weakness everybody suspected they had—wide receiver. Then they addressed that position in the draft not once, not twice, but three times in their first four picks.

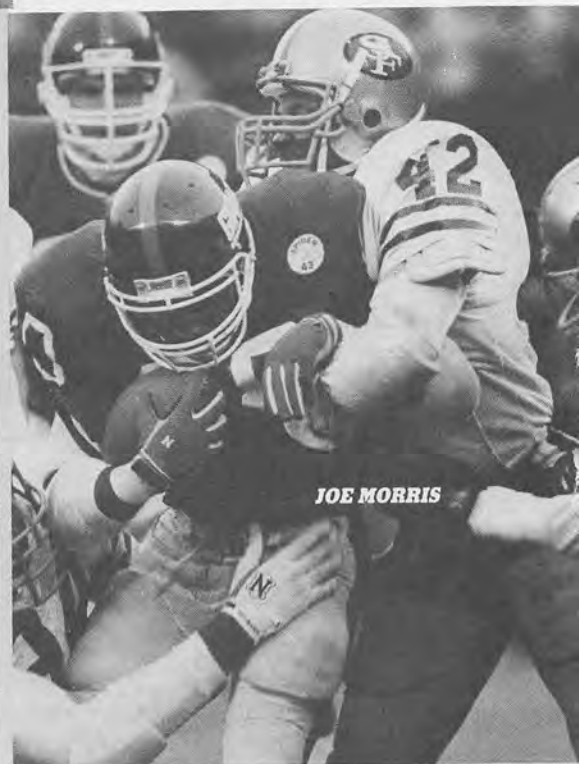
As usual, the Giants do not appear to be fooling around. They are solid everywhere

and are not yet burdened by the distractions that helped unravel the Bears the year before. Unlike the Bears of 1985, they refused a trip to London for a preseason game that would have cut their short offseason shorter. They are not yet in the Bears' class when it comes to national endorsements, commercials, and general celebrity.

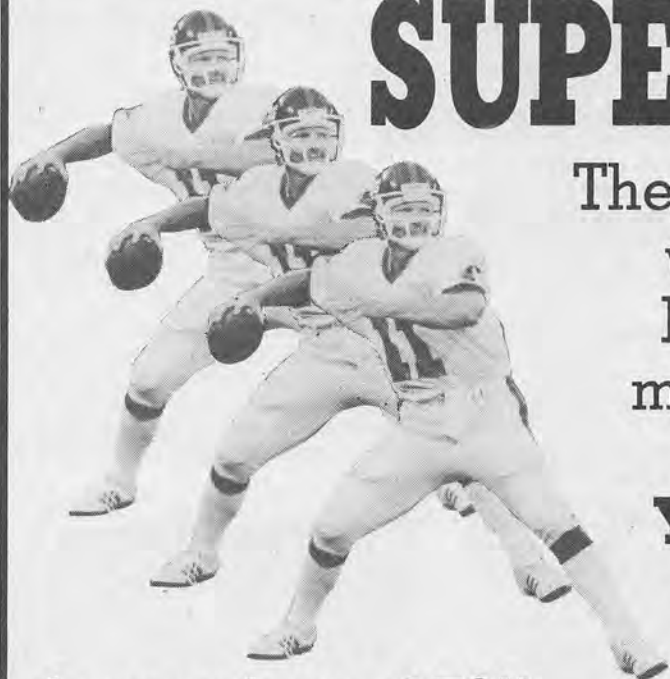
Parcells made inquiries about leaving, but his contract was extended and expanded. Since a 3-12-1 record in his first year in 1983, Parcells has guided the Giants to the playoffs three years in a row. Entering their opener

cells emphasized longer passes last season, even though the Giants had the capability to win with a more conservative ball-control running attack and defense. Simms loved the leeway and proved his worth against the 49ers late in the season when he overcame a 17-0 halftime deficit. With faster receivers now, Simms could be even more effective.

Michigan State's Mark Ingram was the No. 1 choice. He is expected to be the kind of immediate impact player that is difficult for Super Bowl champions to find at the bottom of the first round. He will challenge starters Bobby



JOE MORRIS

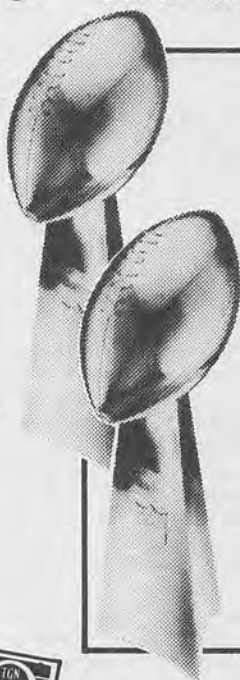


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Johnson and Stacy Robinson for playing time. In the third and fourth rounds, the Giants took receivers Stephen Baker of Fresno State and Odessa Turner of Northwest Louisiana—a Mutt and Jeff combo. After one look at the 5-7 Baker in the team's spring minicamp, Parcells labeled him the quickest player he had ever seen with the Giants. Turner is a 6-3, 205-pounder who will push for a backup spot at least. Injury-prone Lionel Manuel, second-year prospect Solomon Miller, and one of the Super Bowl heroes, Phil McConkey, all will be in the scramble for jobs.

"If one of our current receivers is worried about the draft because we took those guys, it's too bad," said Parcells. "I think our guys are competitive. I think they know you have to compete for a job every year in this league."

Parcells has an embarrassment of riches at tight end, where Mark Bavaro established himself as the best in the business while Zeke Mowatt was recovering from knee surgery. Now Mowatt is back working hard and Parcells might use more formations with two tight ends. Bavaro might not match last year's all-pro receiving numbers, but his blocking and all-round play remain vital. The Giants also drafted a good blocking tight end in Washington's Rod Jones.



If running back George Adams, their 1985 No. 1 draft choice, returns from a chipped pelvis injury that sidelined him in 1986, he is expected to team with Joe Morris in the same backfield. Starting fullback Maurice Carthon, a major contributor to the 1,516-yard season for Morris, would be strictly a blocker in special situations. Morris is as good as there is, but the depth is questionable. Lee Rouson will be pushed by ninth-rounder Dana Wright of Findlay. Veterans Ottis Anderson and Tony Galbreath won't both make the team.

The offensive line—The Suburbanites—is expected to remain intact with tackles Brad Benson and Karl Nelson, guards Billy Ard and Chris Godfrey, and center Bart Oates. If there is a breakthrough, it could be by 1984 first-rounder William Roberts at left tackle, but Benson has been remarkably effective in a position vital to Simms's health. Guard Damian Johnson is a 6-6, 295-pounder whom Parcells calls his best run blocker. He could challenge Godfrey. More depth at guard should come from the draft with Miami's Paul O'Connor and Nebraska's Stan Parker.

On defense, Parcells could be forgiven for doing nothing, but the Giants are not expected to stand pat. After all, they were second to the Bears in overall defense, first against the run, and only 19th against the pass, so there is plenty of room for improvement.

Eric Dorsey, the 1986 No. 1 choice who came on with three sacks in the playoffs, is supposed to supplant veteran George Martin at left end. Martin will stick around as a situation player. Nose tackle Jim Burt will have his hands full staying off a challenge from last year's second-round pick, Erik Howard. Right end Leonard Marshall, who led the line with 12 sacks, is solid.

At linebacker, Parcells has so many players he is toying with formations that have five of them on the field at the same time. Left-side stalwart Carl Banks is finally emerging from the huge shadow cast by right-side rusher Lawrence Taylor, still the most feared defensive player in football. Taylor had 20 1/2 sacks last season, a number put into perspective by noting that the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' entire team had 19. Harry Carson plans to stick around for more fun in the middle in his 12th season. Gary Reasons faces a challenge from second-year prospect Pepper Johnson beside Carson. That leaves Andy Headen, the team's fastest linebacker, on the outside looking in. Parcells would like to see him on the

field more. Other backups are Byron Hunt and Robbie Jones.

Change is possible in the secondary, where Florida safety Adrian White was a second-round draft choice and could play free safety ahead of fill-in Herb Welch if Terry Kinard is not recovered from December knee surgery. Strong safety Kenny Hill played very well to keep a 1986 second-rounder, Greg Lasker, on the bench. But Hill is coming off arthroscopic surgery on both ankles. At cornerback, Perry Williams is the only defensive starter to have played every down while games were close. Second-year man Mark Collins should stay ahead of Elvis Patterson on the left side.

As if they needed one more unfair advantage, the Giants are solid on special teams with Raul Allegre kicking and Sean Landeta punting. McConkey handled returns with Collins and Miller.

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	NFL age	college
33	Adams, George	RB	6-1	225	25	2 Kentucky
2	Allegre, Paul	K	5-10	167	28	4 Texas
24	Anderson, Ottis	RB	6-2	225	30	8 Miami
67	Ard, Bill	G	6-3	270	28	6 Wake Forest
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	25	3 Michigan St.
89	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	245	24	2 Notre Dame
60	Benson, Brad	T	6-3	270	32	9 Penn State
64	Burt, Jim	NT	6-1	260	28	6 Miami
53	Carson, Harry	LB	6-2	240	34	11 S. C. State
44	Carthon, Maurice	RB	6-1	225	26	2 Arkansas St.
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	23	R. Cal. Fullerton
39	Davis, Tyrone	CB	6-1	190	26	2 Clemson
77	Dorsey, Eric	DE	6-5	280	23	R. Notre Dame
28	Flynn, Tom	S	6-0	195	25	3 Pittsburgh
30	Galbreath, Tony	RB	6-0	228	33	11 Missouri
61	Godfrey, Chris	G	6-3	265	29	4 Michigan
54	Headen, Andy	LB	6-5	242	27	4 Clemson
48	Hill, Kenny	S	6-0	195	29	6 Yale
15	Hostetler, Jeff	DB	6-3	212	26	3 West Virginia
74	Howard, Erik	NT	6-4	268	23	R. Washington St.
57	Hunt, Byron	LB	6-5	242	29	6 SMU
88	Johnson, Bob	WR	5-11	171	26	3 Kansas
68	Johnson, Damian	T	6-5	290	25	1 Kansas State
52	Johnson, Thomas	LB	6-3	248	23	R. Ohio State
59	Johnson, Brian	C	6-3	275	25	1 North Carolina
51	Jones, Robbie	LB	6-2	230	28	3 Alabama
69	Jordan, David	G	6-6	276	25	3 Auburn
43	Kinard, Terry	S	6-1	200	28	4 Clemson
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	200	25	2 Towson State
46	Lasker, Greg	S	6-0	200	23	R. Arkansas
86	Manuel, Lionel	WR	5-11	180	25	3 Pacific
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6-3	285	26	4 LSU
75	Martin, George	DE	6-4	255	34	12 Oregon
80	McConkey, Phil	WR	5-10	170	30	3 Navy
76	McGriff, Curtis	DE	6-5	276	29	7 Alabama
87	Miller, Solomon	WR	6-1	185	23	R. Utah State
20	Morris, Joe	RB	5-7	195	27	5 Syracuse
84	Mowatt, Zeke	TE	6-3	240	26	3 Florida State
63	Nelson, Karl	T	6-6	285	27	3 Iowa State
65	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	29	2 Brigham Young
34	Patterson, Elvis	CB	5-11	188	27	3 Kansas
55	Reasons, Gary	LB	6-4	234	25	3 NW Louisiana St.
66	Roberts, William	T	6-5	280	25	2 Ohio State
81	Robinson, Stacy	WR	5-11	186	25	2 N. Dakota State
22	Rouson, Lee	RB	6-1	222	25	2 Colorado
17	Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6-1	195	30	8 Alabama
78	Sally, Jerome	NT	6-3	270	28	5 Missouri
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	214	31	8 Morehead St.
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	243	28	6 N. C. State
73	Washington, John	DE	6-4	275	24	R. Oklahoma St.
27	Welch, Herb	DB	5-11	160	26	2 UCLA
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	26	3 N. C. State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-11	188	Michigan St.
2	White, Adrian	DB	6-0	200	Florida
3	Baker, Stephen	WR	5-7	160	Fresno State
4	Turner, Odessa	WR	6-3	205	NW Louisiana
5	O'Connor, Paul	G	6-3	274	Miami
6	Richardson, Tim	RB	6-0	210	Pacific
6	Riesenberger, Doug	OT	6-5	270	California
8	Jones, Rod	TE	6-4	245	Washington
9	Parker, Stan	OL	6-5	275	Nebraska
9	Wright, Dana	RB	6-2	215	Findlay
10	Faucette, Chuck	LB	6-2	238	Maryland
11	Waller, Dave	QB	6-4	225	Michigan Tech
12	Berthussen, Bill	OT	6-5	285	Iowa State
12	Stark, Chad	RB	6-1	230	North Dakota St.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> BODY BIRD ORIOLES | <input type="checkbox"/> CARDINALS <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Navy/Red |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIRD HEAD ORIOLES | <input type="checkbox"/> BOSTON BRAVES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENATORS <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Red | <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE SOX <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Black |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WAHOO INDIANS | <input type="checkbox"/> ST. L. BROWNS' <input type="checkbox"/> Brown <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CALIFORNIA ANGELS w/Halo | |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> DETROIT | <input type="checkbox"/> PITTSBURGH | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILLIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DODGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> BRAVES | <input type="checkbox"/> RED SOX |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BROOKLYN | <input type="checkbox"/> BOSTON | <input type="checkbox"/> SENATORS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW YORK (Yankees) | <input type="checkbox"/> BROWNS | <input type="checkbox"/> KNIGHTS (from |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE SOX | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW YORK (Mets) | <input type="checkbox"/> movie The Natural) |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> BROOKLYN DODGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> N.Y. GIANTS | <input type="checkbox"/> BOSTON BRAVES | <input type="checkbox"/> WAHOO INDIANS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PHILA. A's | <input type="checkbox"/> L.A. ANGELS | <input type="checkbox"/> ST. L. BROWNS | <input type="checkbox"/> WASH. SENATORS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MILW. BRAVES | <input type="checkbox"/> COLT .45's | <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE SOX | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILA. PHILLIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PILOTS | | | |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> PENGUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> BLUES | <input type="checkbox"/> SABRES | <input type="checkbox"/> JETS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CANADIENS | <input type="checkbox"/> REDWINGS | <input type="checkbox"/> WHALERS | <input type="checkbox"/> FLAMES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAPLELEAFS | <input type="checkbox"/> CAPITOLS | <input type="checkbox"/> NORDIQUES | \$45 ⁰⁰ Each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RANGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> NORTHSTARS | <input type="checkbox"/> FLYERS | \$55 ⁰⁰ Each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BRUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> KINGS | <input type="checkbox"/> DEVILS | \$52 ⁵⁰ Each |

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FULL COLOR 50/50 POLY/COTTON

ADULT SIZES: ☐ S ☐ M☐ L ☐ XL\$10⁹⁵ each

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BLACKHAWKS | <input type="checkbox"/> PENGUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> BLUES | <input type="checkbox"/> BRUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> CANADIENS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEVILS | <input type="checkbox"/> FLYERS | <input type="checkbox"/> ISLANDERS | <input type="checkbox"/> OILERS | <input type="checkbox"/> RANGERS |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 49ers | <input type="checkbox"/> PACKERS | <input type="checkbox"/> JETS White | <input type="checkbox"/> GIANTS Blue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BEARS | <input type="checkbox"/> SEAHAWKS | <input type="checkbox"/> DOLPHINS | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RAIDERS | <input type="checkbox"/> REDSKINS | <input type="checkbox"/> STEELERS | |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> DOLPHIN Yearbooks <input type="checkbox"/> 1984 <input type="checkbox"/> 85 <input type="checkbox"/> 86 <input type="checkbox"/> 87 | \$8 ⁹⁵ ea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIANTS Yearbooks <input type="checkbox"/> 1986 ... | \$20 ⁰⁰ ea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1970 OILERS | \$8 ⁹⁵ ea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JETS Yearbooks <input type="checkbox"/> 1972 <input type="checkbox"/> 75 <input type="checkbox"/> 74 <input type="checkbox"/> 79 | \$8 ⁹⁵ ea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PACKERS Yearbooks <input type="checkbox"/> 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> 70 <input type="checkbox"/> 74 <input type="checkbox"/> 79 | \$10 ⁰⁰ ea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PACKERS Yearbooks <input type="checkbox"/> 1980 <input type="checkbox"/> 81 <input type="checkbox"/> 82 <input type="checkbox"/> 84 <input type="checkbox"/> 85 <input type="checkbox"/> 86 <input type="checkbox"/> 87 | \$8 ⁹⁵ ea. |
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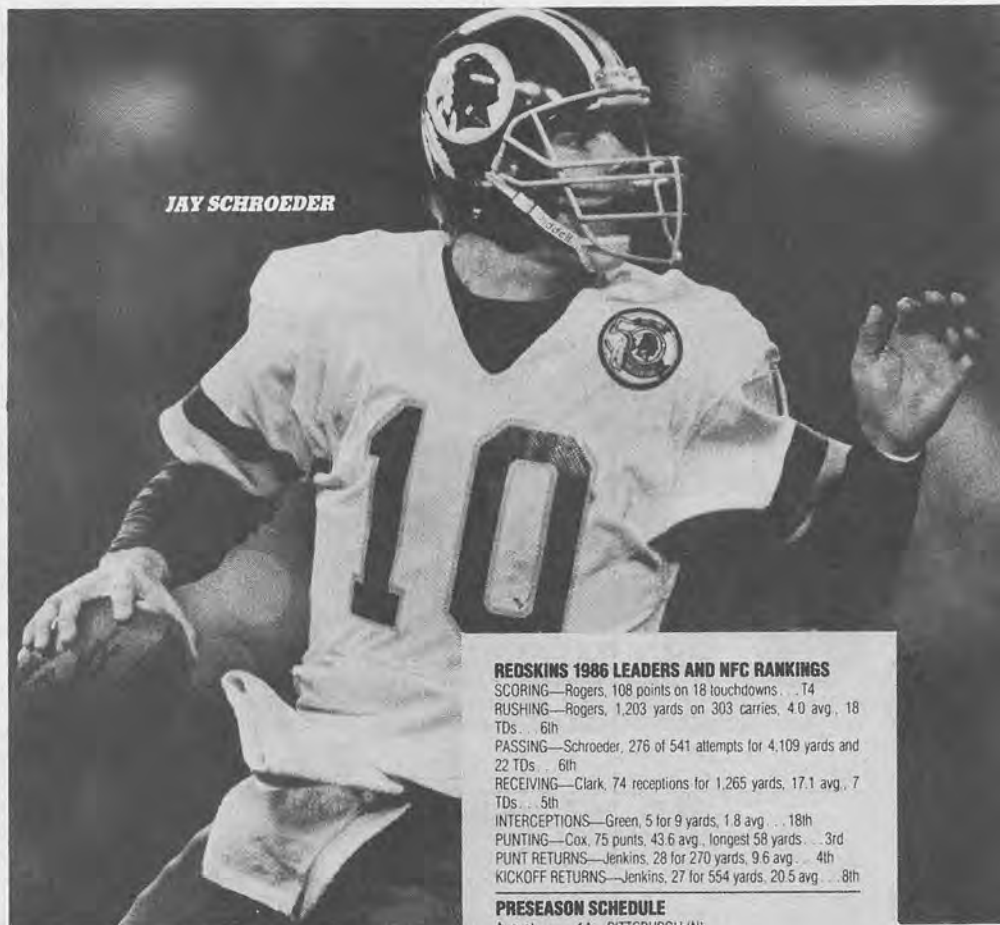
WASHINGTON REDSKINS

The Redskins could argue they were the second-best team in football last year. After all, they proved it three times in losses to the champion New York Giants. The third loss came in the NFC title game and kept the Redskins out of their third Super Bowl in five years. During that period, the Redskins' record of 63-21 is the best in football. The Redskins also lost to the Super Bowl runner-up Denver Broncos, but that was only once. Aside from those four losses to the Giants and Broncos, they were 14-1, including a convincing beating of the defending champion Bears in Chicago in the playoffs.

"We were able to beat every top team in our conference—San Francisco, Minnesota, the Rams, Dallas, Chicago—except one, the Giants. I guess it just means that we're number two, and we'll just have to try harder," said coach Joe Gibbs.

After his 17-0 loss to the Giants in the title game, Gibbs said he was looking for 18 points to get him to the next Super Bowl. That's where the Redskins plan to be in January. They figure if they could lose quarterback Joe Theismann and running back John Riggins the same year and hardly skip a beat, no goal is beyond immediate hope and expectation. If they are to get past the Giants, the burden again lies with the quarterback and the runner, Jay Schroeder and George Rogers.

To compete with the Giants, the Redskins are looking for "a bigger, stronger, more physical team," according to general manager Bobby Beathard. This is of special concern on defense, where the linebacking is under-



JAY SCHROEDER



GEORGE ROGERS

sized and aging. Unfortunately, the Redskins did little to shore up that area in the draft.

Schroeder was outstanding in his first full season at quarterback. Possessing a big arm and remarkable poise, he pulled out six victories when the Redskins were behind by 10 points or fewer going into the fourth quarter. He completed 10 passes of more than 50 yards. At 6-4, 215 pounds and mobile, Schroeder dared teams to blitz him and burned them regularly with long passes or timely scrambles. He broke team records held by Sonny Jurgensen for pass attempts and yardage, becoming the first Skins' quarterback to get over 4,000 yards (4,109). His performance earned him a Pro Bowl berth ahead of the Giants' Phil Simms.

"Everybody was looking at our quarterback, asking what he was going to be like," Gibbs said. "Do we have a quarterback to take us to the Super Bowl? That's his and my challenge." Schroeder's first challenge is to cut down on his interceptions. Although he connected for 22 touchdown passes, he also misfired for as many interceptions, which knocked his passer rating down to the middle of the pack.

The Redskins are big, strong, and physical in the backup quarterback department as long as they have former Buccaneer and USFL jumper Doug Williams. With an arm and poise similar to Schroeder's, Williams gave the Redskins a sense of security last season that few other teams enjoy.

Schroeder is helped considerably by a receiving tandem that is among the league's best. Art Monk and Gary Clark combined for 147 receptions, 2,333 yards, and 11 touch-

REDSKINS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Rogers, 108 points on 18 touchdowns . . . 14
RUSHING—Rogers, 1,203 yards on 303 carries, 4.0 avg. . . 18
 TDs . . . 6th
PASSING—Schroeder, 276 of 541 attempts for 4,109 yards and 22 TDs . . . 6th
RECEIVING—Clark, 74 receptions for 1,265 yards, 17.1 avg. . . 7
 TDs . . . 5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Green, 5 for 9 yards, 1.8 avg. . . 18th
PUNTING—Cox, 75 punts, 43.6 avg., longest 58 yards . . . 3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Jenkins, 28 for 270 yards, 9.6 avg. . . 4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Jenkins, 27 for 554 yards, 20.5 avg. . . 8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 14 PITTSBURGH (N)
 22 Green Bay (at Madison)
 29 At Tampa Bay (N)
 September 5 At L.A. Rams (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

		1986 SCORES
September	13 PHILADELPHIA	41-14
	20 At Atlanta	—
	27 NEW ENGLAND	—
October	4 ST. LOUIS	28-21
	11 At New York Giants	20-27
	19 At Dallas (N)	6-30
	25 NEW YORK JETS	—
November	1 At Buffalo	—
	8 At Philadelphia	21-14
	15 DETROIT	—
	23 LOS ANGELES RAMS (N)	—
	29 NEW YORK GIANTS	14-24
December	6 At St. Louis	20-17
	13 DALLAS	41-14
	20 At Miami (N)	—
	26 At Minnesota	(OT) 44-38

downs. Monk caught 73 passes and Clark 74, so it was futile to shut down one and let the other run. Monk made his third straight Pro Bowl and has caught more passes (270) during that time than any receiver in the NFL. Clark was challenging for the league lead last season until an ankle injury held him without a catch the final two weeks. He also was shut out in the championship game and had a critical drop on an apparent sure touchdown.

As if two weren't enough, third receiver Ricky Sanders led the club in yardage per catch with 20.4 and two touchdowns. Tight end Clint Didier averaged 20.3 yards and caught four touchdowns. His 691 yards receiving was the second-best ever by a Redskins tight end. Didier and Don Warren are in Gibbs's double-tight-end offense. Warren is a solid blocker on a corps of fine blockers. They are backed by Terry Orr.

Rogers is the workhorse running back, but the Redskins have one of the league's most versatile and talented backs in Kelvin Bryant. Rogers led the NFL in touchdowns with 18. He carried 303 times for 1,203 yards and has a current streak of 118 carries without a fumble. Former USFL star Bryant missed six games with a knee injury, yet gained 707 yards running and catching and scored seven touchdowns in 10 games. In one outing against the Giants, he caught a club-record 13 balls. A healthy Bryant will give the Redskins a healthy boost. Keith Griffin is a reliable backup, and the Redskins gambled on further depth by drafting Texas Tech's Tim Smith in the fifth round. He hasn't played much in two years because of injuries, but scouts ranked him high on potential.

Up front, the "Hogs" remain alive and well. Tackles Joe Jacoby and Mark May, guards Russ Grimm and R.C. Thieleman, and center Jeff Bostic boast 12 Pro Bowls among them and the experience of 50 playoff contests. They seldom miss games and have endured the test of time since line coach Joe Bugel tagged them with his nickname in 1982. All



but Thieleman are original Hogs, with Thieleman joining the group in 1985. In an effort to add depth, the Redskins made huge Notre Dame defensive tackle Wally Kleine a second-round draft choice with the hope of converting the 6-9, 310-pounder to an offensive tackle. Kleine will compete with tackle Dan McQuaid and guards Raleigh McKenzie and Ron Tilton for backup duty.

The Redskins' desire to get bigger on defense was not fulfilled in the draft, so they will have to get better some other way. Assuming 36-year-old left tackle Dave Butz will stick with plans to continue playing, the defense won't get smaller. At 6-8, 295 going on 325, Butz is a remarkably durable giant who played one of his best games in the final loss to the Giants. He and left end Charles Mann are the anchors of a front four that is overwhelmed by publicity to flamboyant right end Dexter Manley. Right

tackle Darryl Grant is a steady performer.

After a spectacular year of 18 sacks and constant controversy regarding his contract, Manley must come back from a bout with alcohol abuse. Although he has more sacks than anyone else in the league since the statistic was officially recognized in 1982, Manley is sometimes more bother than worth for the straight-arrow Gibbs. Second-year end Markus Koch and third-year tackle Dean Hamel provide depth and prospects for the future.

It is at linebacker where the Redskins have concern. Neal Olkewicz, Rich Milot, and Monte Coleman are steady, productive starters who have played a large part in the Redskins' success of the 1980s. But they are neither big nor young. They came in together in 1979 and all will celebrate their 30th birthday in 1987. Compared with the big, mobile, young, game-breaking linebackers in New York and Chicago, they don't match up. The return of Mel Kaufman from an Achilles' heel injury should help, but he is smaller than any of the others and not the answer for the future.

Cornerback Darrell Green is an all-pro who led the club in interceptions with five. His speed allowed him to match up every week with the opponent's fastest receiver. On the other side, the Redskins line up with Vernon Dean. Second-year strong safety Alvin Walton and veteran free safety Curtis Jordan are coming off solid performances. Help for the secondary should come from top draft choice Brian Davis of Nebraska, who arrived in the second round. Davis is an interesting prospect, a former wrestler who played one year of football in high school, two at a community



college, and two at Nebraska.

Punter Steve Cox averaged 43.6 yards and booted two field goals of 55 and 57 yards. Place-kicker Jess Atkinson salvaged a near-disaster at the position by hitting a perfect six-for-six field goals in the playoffs after joining the team in December. Ken Jenkins and Eric Yarber return kickoffs and punts.

The Skins are a much better than average team planning to get better than the Giants.

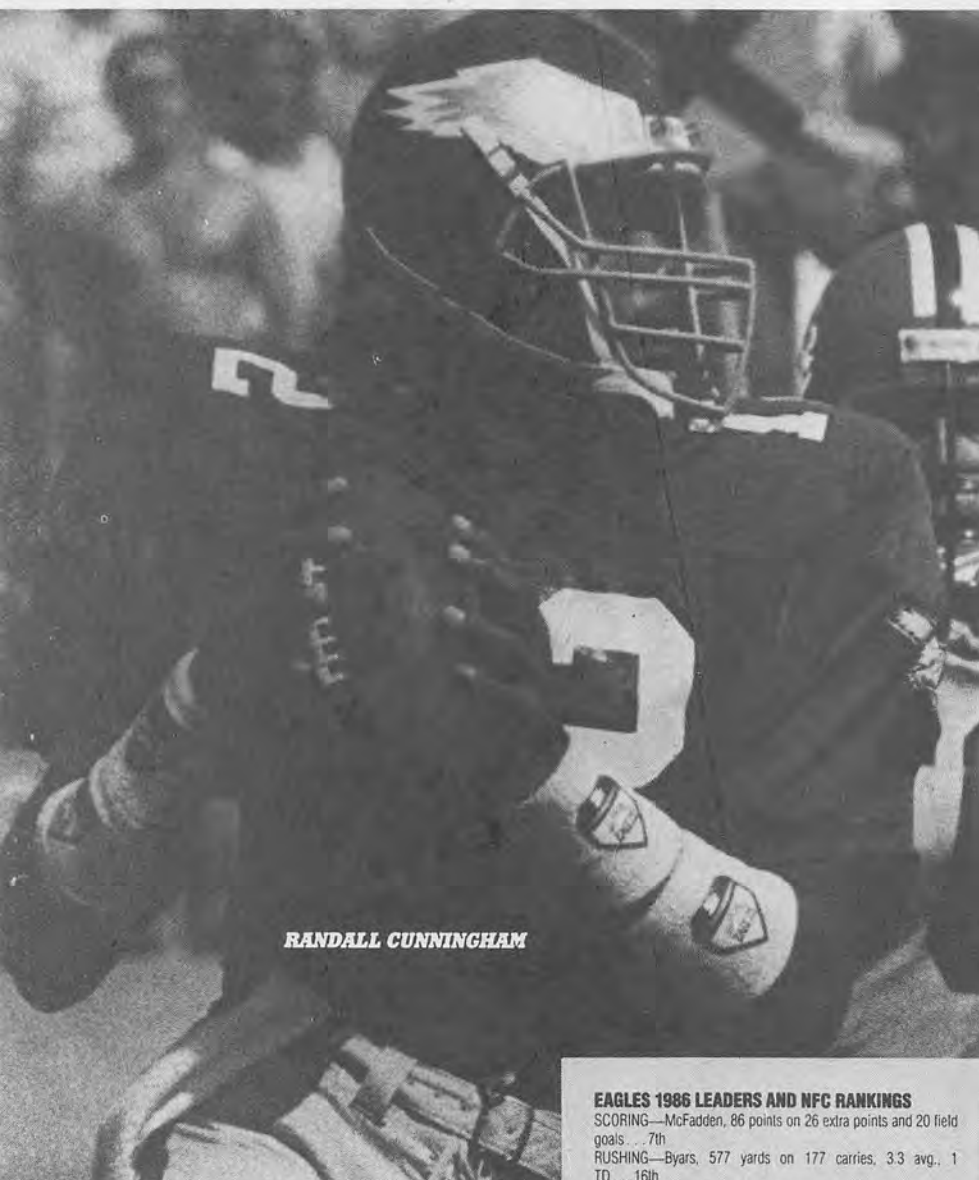


REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
4	Atkinson, Jess	K	5-9	168	26	3	Maryland
26	Badajek, Rick	RB	5-8	218	25	2	Maryland
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	260	29	8	Clemson
23	Bowles, Todd	S	6-2	203	24	2	Temple
29	Branch, Reggie	RB	5-11	227	25	3	East Carolina
24	Bryant, Kelvin	RB	6-2	195	27	2	North Carolina
58	Burks, Shawn	LB	6-1	230	24	2	LSU
65	Butz, Dave	DT	6-7	295	38	15	Purdue
50	Caldwell, Ravin	LB	6-3	229	24	1	Arkansas
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5-9	173	25	3	James Madison
48	Colley, Ken	S	6-0	198	27	4	SW Texas State
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	30	9	Central Ark.
56	Copeland, Anthony	LB	6-2	250	24	1	Louisville
12	Cox, Steve	P	6-4	195	29	7	Arkansas
56	Daniels, Calvin	LB	6-3	241	29	6	North Carolina
32	Dean, Vernon	CB	5-11	178	28	6	San Diego St.
86	Didier, Clint	TE	6-5	240	28	6	Portland St.
21	Fells, Kenny	RB	6-0	190	23	1	Henderson St.
94	Frain, Todd	TE	6-2	235	25	1	Nebraska
30	Garner, Dwight	RB	5-8	183	23	2	California
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	227	23	1	Brigham Young
77	Grant, Darryl	DT	6-1	275	28	7	Rice
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5-8	170	27	5	Texas A&I
35	Griffin, Keith	RB	5-8	185	26	4	Miami
68	Grimm, Russ	G	6-3	275	28	7	Pittsburgh
78	Hamel, Dean	DT	6-3	275	26	3	Tulsa
64	Hamilton, Steve	DL	6-4	255	26	3	East Carolina
88	Holloway, Derek	WR	5-7	166	26	2	Arkansas
66	Jacoby, Joe	T	6-7	305	28	7	Louisville
31	Jenkins, Ken	RB	5-8	185	28	5	Bucknell
82	Jones, Anthony	TE	6-3	248	27	4	Wichita State
22	Jordan, Curtis	FS	6-2	205	33	11	Texas Tech
55	Kaufman, Mel	LB	6-2	218	29	6	Cal Poly-SLO
74	Koch, Markus	DE	6-5	275	24	2	Boise State
54	Krasko, Joe	LB	6-1	224	25	1	Washington
72	Manley, Dexter	DE	6-3	257	28	7	Oklahoma St.
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	270	26	5	Nevada-Reno
73	May, Mark	T	6-6	295	28	7	Pittsburgh
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	G	6-2	262	24	3	Tennessee
60	McQuaid, Dan	T	6-7	278	27	3	UNLV
57	Milot, Rich	LB	6-4	237	30	9	Penn State
81	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	209	30	8	Syracuse
41	Morrison, Tim	CB	6-1	195	24	2	North Carolina
52	Olkewicz, Neal	LB	6-0	233	30	9	Maryland
87	Orr, Terry	TE	6-3	227	26	2	Texas
38	Rogers, George	RB	6-2	229	29	7	South Carolina
	Rosen, Jeff	G	6-3	274	23	1	Delaware
11	Rypien, Mark	QB	6-4	234	25	1	Washington St.
46	Sanders, Ricky	RB	5-11	180	25	2	SW Texas State
10	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6-4	214	26	4	UCLA
69	Thieleman, R.C.	G	6-4	262	32	11	Arkansas
76	Tilton, Ron	G	6-4	250	24	2	Tulane
89	Verdin, Clarence	WR	5-8	160	24	2	SW Louisiana
40	Walton, Alvin	S	6-0	180	23	2	Kansas
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	242	31	9	San Diego St.
45	Wilburn, Barry	CB	6-3	186	24	3	Mississippi
17	Williams, Doug	QB	6-4	220	32	7	Grambling
80	Yarber, Eric	WR	5-8	156	24	2	Idaho
14	Zendejas, Max	K	5-11	184	24	2	Arizona

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Davis, Brian	CB	6-2	190	Nebraska
2	Kleine, Wally	DT	6-9	310	Notre Dame
5	Smith, Tim	RB	5-11	216	Texas Tech
6	Gage, Steve	QB/S	6-3	210	Tulsa
6	Simmons, Ed	DT	6-5	275	E. Washington
7	Thomas, Johnny	DB	5-9	190	Baylor
8	Vaughn, Clarence	LB	6-0	204	Northern Illinois
9	Jenkins, Alfred	RB	6-4	230	Arizona
10	Wilson, Ted	WR	5-9	170	Central Florida
11	Brown, Laron	WR	5-10	175	Texas
12	Hitchcock, Ray	C	6-2	289	Minnesota



RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

The only coach in the NFC East Division who does not pick the New York Giants to repeat is Philadelphia's Buddy Ryan, who picks his Eagles, of course. "If you give your opponents too much respect, you start believing it yourself," Ryan said.

Ryan also had picked the Eagles to win in his first year because "If I don't, nobody else will." After a 5-10-1 debut, Ryan said: "We put together the nucleus to build on. We went through growing pains. When you start seven or eight rookies, that's going to happen. You usually find a way to lose rather than win. But as they mature, we're going to have a great football team in Philadelphia."

Probably not this year, especially after another foot injury to running back Keith Byars. In his initial season, Ryan made 32 personnel changes, an average of two a week. He ended up with 20 new players, 14 rookies, and a quarterback starting for the first time. "The experience they gained is going to help us," Ryan said. "In most cases, the biggest jump in ability and performance that you see in players is from the time they are rookies to the time they go into their sophomore year."

EAGLES 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—McFadden, 86 points on 26 extra points and 20 field goals... 7th
 RUSHING—Byars, 577 yards on 177 carries, 3.3 avg., 1 TD... 16th
 PASSING—Jaworski, 128 of 245 attempts for 1,405 yards and 8 TDs... 8th
 RECEIVING—Quick, 60 receptions for 939 yards, 15.7 avg., 9 TDs... 11th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Waters, 6 for 39 yards, 6.5 avg., 10th
 PUNTING—Teltschik, 108 punts, 41.6 avg., longest 62 yards... 5th
 PUNT RETURNS—Garrity, 17 for 187 yards, 11.0 avg., 1TD... unranked
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Crawford, 27 for 497 yards, 18.4 avg... 14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 At N.Y. Jets (N)
 21 At New England (N)
 29 MIAMI (N)
 September 3 DETROIT (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September 13 At Washington 14-11
 20 NEW ORLEANS
 27 At San Francisco
 October 4 CHICAGO 10-13
 11 At Dallas 23-21
 18 At Green Bay
 25 DALLAS 14-17
 November 1 At St. Louis 10-13
 8 WASHINGTON 14-21
 15 NEW YORK GIANTS 14-17
 22 ST. LOUIS (OT) 10-10
 29 At New England
 December 6 At New York Giants 3-35
 13 MIAMI
 20 At New York Jets
 27 BUFFALO

1986 SCORES

For Ryan's sake, he must hope so. Owner Norman Braman does not always sound like a patient man. "Buddy made the decision to build with young people and I support that decision," Braman said. "But Buddy realizes that next year it has to register in wins and losses. I'll be disappointed if we're not in the playoffs next year."

The biggest jump the Eagles will need is at quarterback, where they have left everything in the hands and feet of third-year man Randall Cunningham. As a starter, Cunningham will still be in his first year. After playing primarily in third-down situations for the first half of 1986, he started five of the last six games and showed enough promise for the Eagles to let go of veteran Ron Jaworski. Cunningham's arm has been favorably compared to that of Denver's John Elway and his scrambling ability got him 540 yards and 5 TDs.

"That Cunningham, a lot of people don't know about him yet, but he's tough," said Giants' linebacker Lawrence Taylor.

"The fact that we used Randall on third downs, which was a tough situation for him, really matured him a lot faster than if he'd been watching," Ryan said. "Learning is experiencing. We have to be able to win while he's still learning. He'll learn just like Roger Staubach did. He was a great scrambler. There's a time to lie down and a time you have to go for the first down."

Backing up Cunningham is 10-year veteran Matt Cavanaugh, who threw for 260 yards and two touchdowns to beat Dallas in week 15 last year. "Matt is a pro's pro," Ryan said. "He works at the game. He comes in every Tuesday and starts looking at film to get ready regardless of whether he's starting."

With Cunningham in the lineup, wide receiver Mike Quick suddenly became more effective than he had been with Jaworski last year. Quick has been the Eagles' best offensive player of late and with Cunningham at quarterback, he caught 30 of his 60 passes for more than half his yards. "Randall seems to learn more and more every time he steps on the field," he said. Quick is part of a receiving



MIKE QUICK

corps Ryan calls deeper than any other area on his team. Over the last four years, Quick has caught more touchdown passes (42) than any other NFL player. "He's also a good blocker," Ryan said. Quick is complemented by Kenny Jackson, who got out of Ryan's doghouse by the end of the season and started to live up to his first-round potential. With tall Ron Johnson and small Gregg Garrity available in third-down situations, Cunningham has plenty of targets.

Tight ends John Spagnola, Dave Little, and Byron Darby are trying to impress Ryan with better blocking. Spagnola and Little are good receivers and Darby was switched from the defensive line in the middle of last year to bulk up the blocking. "You can't run off tackle if your tight end doesn't block," Ryan said.

Blocking is an area of considerable concern for the Eagles, who gave up an NFL-record 104 sacks last season. "You can't blame it all on the offensive line," Ryan said. "We had backs who missed blitz pickups and we had quarterbacks who didn't get rid of the ball the way they're supposed to." Cunningham was dumped 72 times.

Offensive line coach Ken Iman was replaced by veteran line coach Bill Walsh, and Ryan drafted Auburn center Ben Tamburello

and Tulsa guard David Alexander in rounds three and five, respectively, to provide competition. "The offensive line wasn't as aggressive as I'd like," Ryan said. He had to start eight different combinations last year. There will be competition at tackle, where starters Ken Reeves and Joe Conwell will be pushed by Leonard Mitchell, who is coming off knee surgery. At guard, Ryan moved defensive tackle Reggie Singletary to challenge Bob Landsee and Ron Baker. Matt Darwin will challenge another recovering knee case, Gerry Feehery.

If the blocking improves, the running of second-year backs Byars and Anthony Toney should improve, too. Byars, who hadn't played football for a year and a half because of an injury to his right foot, had a tough baptism yet finished with 577 yards rushing. Both Byars and Toney had trouble learning to block blitzes, but experience will solve that. "More than Randall or anybody else, as Keith Byars goes, so go the Eagles," Ryan said. Byars broke a bone in his left foot in May but was hoping to be ready for the season. Second-year backup Charles Crawford and veteran Michael Haddix provide the depth.

On defense, Ryan got a step closer to his goals by landing Miami tackle Jerome Brown with his first pick in the draft. The 6-2, 291-pounder should fit in immediately somewhere between ends Reggie White and Greg Brown. Ryan called Pro Bowler White "the best I've ever seen" after watching him record 15 of his 18 sacks in the second half of last season. White's improvement was characteristic of the entire defense that was just learning Ryan's "46" scheme. Veteran Ken Clarke and second-year man Clyde Simmons were the starting tackles before the draft. With Brown a sure starter, Ryan has more flexibility in shifting White inside in the "46."

Ryan added linebackers Byron Evans of Arizona and Ron Moten of Florida in rounds four and six. Two second-year men, Seth Joyner and Alonzo Johnson, are the starters on the left and right side. Veteran Garry Cobb is the No. 1 backup. Middle linebacker Mike Rei-

chenbach "learned the defense faster than any guy I've had," Ryan said.

The expected return of free safety Wes Hopkins from knee surgery should buoy the secondary, where Ryan is hyping strong safety Andre Waters for the Pro Bowl. Cornerbacks Roynell Young and Elbert Foulles are backed by Evan Cooper and Cedrick Brown. Terry Hoage did an excellent job replacing the injured Hopkins.

More consistency is needed in special teams, where John Teltschik averaged 41.6 yards on an Eagle-record 108 punts and Paul McFadden made only 20 of 31 field goals after two seasons as one of the league's most accurate place-kickers.

The Eagles face the toughest schedule in the NFL based on combined 1986 won-lost records. They have eight games against play-off teams. "It's a great opportunity for us," Ryan said. "If we ever get to the playoffs, at least we'll belong."

EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
63	Baker, Ron	G	6-4	274	33	10	Oklahoma St.
77	Black, Mike	OL	6-4	290	23	2	Sacramento St.
98	Brown, Greg	DE	6-5	265	30	7	Kansas State
41	Byars, Keith	RB	6-1	230	24	2	Ohio State
6	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-2	212	31	10	Pittsburgh
71	Clarke, Ken	DT	6-2	275	31	10	Syracuse
50	Cobb, Garry	LB	6-2	230	30	9	Southern Cal
79	Conwell, Joe	T	6-5	275	26	2	North Carolina
21	Cooper, Evan	CB	5-11	184	25	4	Michigan
45	Crawford, Charles	RB	6-2	235	23	2	Oklahoma St.
12	Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	192	24	3	UNLV
84	Darby, Byron	TE	6-4	262	27	5	Southern Cal
78	Darwin, Matt	C	6-4	260	24	2	Texas A&M
67	Feehery, Gerry	C	6-2	270	27	5	Syracuse
29	Foulles, Elbert	CB	5-11	185	26	5	Alcorn State
33	Frizzell, William	S	6-3	198	25	4	N.C. Central
86	Garrity, Gregg	WR	5-10	169	26	5	Penn State
26	Haddix, Michael	FB	6-2	227	26	5	Mississippi St.
62	Haden, Nick	OL	6-2	270	25	2	Penn State
34	Hoage, Terry	S	6-3	199	25	4	Georgia
48	Hopkins, Wes	FG	6-1	212	26	5	SMU
81	Jackson, Kenny	WR	6-0	180	25	4	Penn State
53	Jiles, Dwayne	LB	6-4	242	26	3	Texas Tech
54	Johnson, Alonzo	LB	6-3	222	24	2	Florida
85	Johnson, Ron	WR	6-3	186	29	3	Long Beach St.
59	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	241	23	2	UTEP
52	Kraynak, Rich	LB	6-1	230	26	5	Pittsburgh
65	Landsee, Bob	OL	6-4	273	23	2	Wisconsin
58	Lee, Byron	LB	6-2	230	23	2	Ohio State
89	Little, Dave	TE	6-2	236	26	4	Middle Tenn.
8	McFadden, Paul	K	5-11	163	26	4	Youngstown St.
74	Mitchell, Leonard	T	6-7	295	29	7	Houston
82	Quick, Mike	WR	6-2	190	28	6	N. C. St.
66	Reeves, Ken	OL	6-5	275	26	3	Texas A&M
55	Reichenbach, Mike	LB	6-2	238	26	4	East Stroudsburg
76	Schreiber, Adam	OL	6-4	270	25	4	Texas
95	Schultz, Jody	LB	6-3	235	27	4	East Carolina
96	Simmons, Clyde	DL	6-6	258	23	2	Western Carolina
68	Singletary, Reggie	OL	6-3	272	23	2	N. C. St.
83	Smith, Phil	WR	6-3	188	27	4	San Diego St.
88	Spagnola, John	TE	6-4	242	30	8	Yale
93	Strauthers, Tom	DL	6-4	264	26	5	Jackson State
37	Taulatlatasi, Junior	RB	5-10	205	25	2	Washington St.
10	Teltschik, John	P	6-2	215	23	2	Texas
25	Toney, Anthony	FB	6-0	227	25	2	Texas A&M
69	Tupper, Jeff	DE	6-5	269	25	2	Oklahoma
20	Waters, Andre	SS	5-11	185	25	4	Cheyney
92	White, Reggie	DL	6-5	285	26	3	Tennessee
22	Wilson, Brenard	S	6-0	185	32	9	Vanderbilt
43	Young, Roynell	CB	6-1	185	30	8	Alcorn State

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Brown, Jerome	DT	6-2	291	Miami
3	Tamburello, Ben	C	6-3	269	Auburn
4	Evans, Byron	LB	6-2	218	Arizona
5	Alexander, David	G	6-3	262	Tulsa
6	Moten, Ron	LB	6-1	227	Florida
6	Pike, Chris	DT	6-7	291	Tulsa
7	Williams, Brian	OT	6-7	293	Central Michigan
9	Lambiotte, Ken	QB	6-3	187	William & Mary
10	Carberry, Paul	DT	6-3	262	Oregon State
12	Morse, Bobby	RB	5-10	201	Michigan St.



WES HOPKINS



KEITH BYARS

DALLAS COWBOYS

The Dallas Cowboys are down and it's hard to believe they will stay there. It's also hard to believe they can beat out the New York Giants or Washington Redskins in the NFC's toughest division. So where do the Cowboys go? What do they do? Back to the drawing board. Maybe Herschel Walker can play offensive and defensive line in addition to his duties as fullback, tailback, and wide receiver.

To hear coach Tom Landry tell it, the Cowboys are more on a par with the Philadelphia Eagles than with the Giants or Redskins. The Cowboys beat both the Giants and Redskins during a 6-2 start in 1986, but injuries and age caught up with America's Team in a brutal second half when they struggled home 1-7. It included a five-game losing streak that remains intact, a grim offseason reminder that the slide downward has not yet stopped.

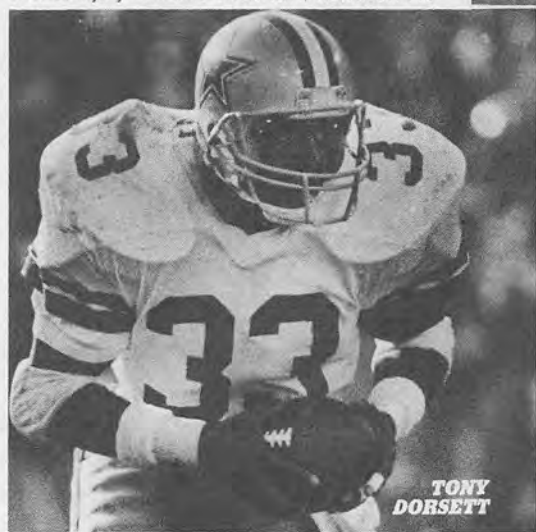
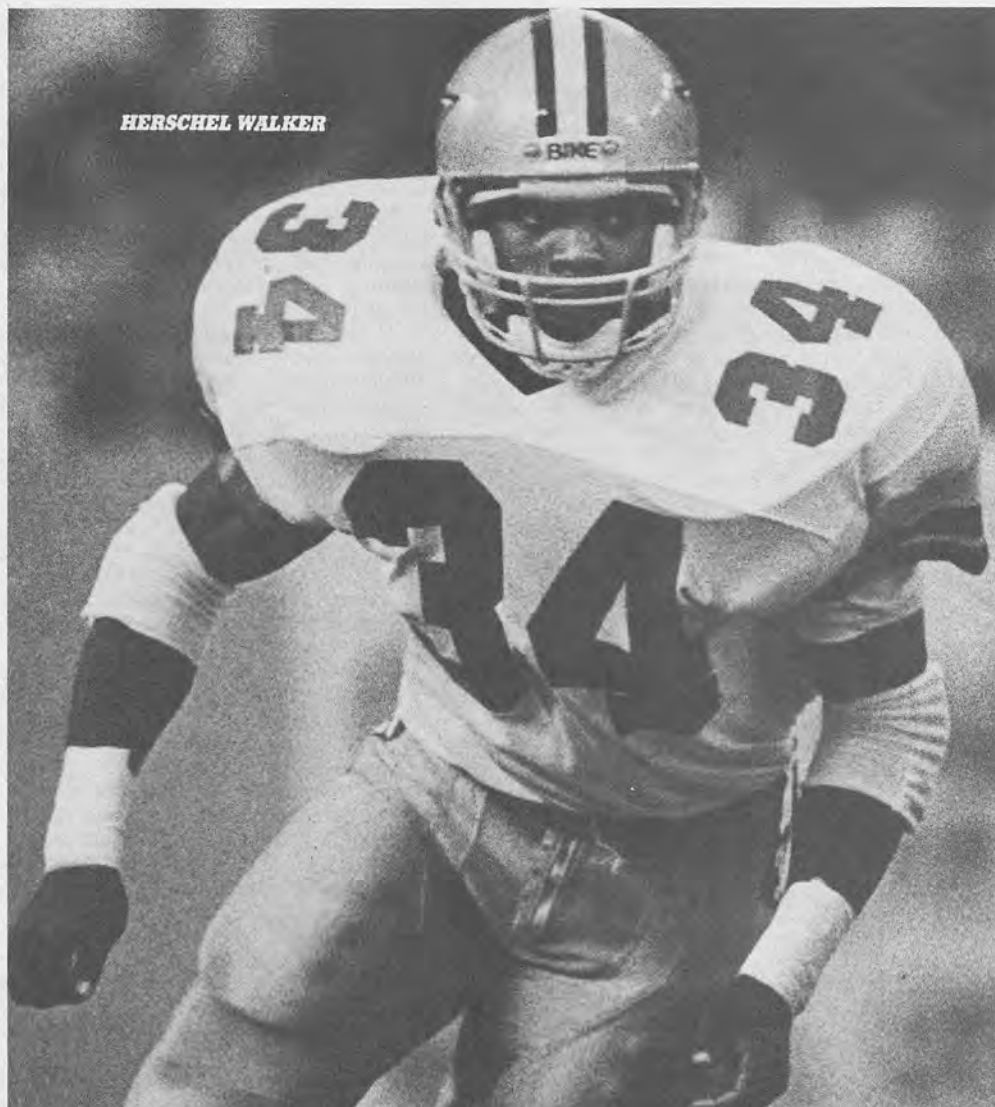
"We are the laughingstock of the NFL, and everyone is loving it," said Tony Dorsett.

Confidence is a fragile necessity for success. When it disappears, it is difficult to regain. After 20 winning seasons, the Cowboys' 7-9 showing stopped them short of the only two winning streaks in professional sports that were longer: the New York Yankees at 39 and the Montreal Canadiens at 32. In the NFL, where parity is the ideal, such success ultimately breeds failure.

"Drafting late in the first round through all those winning years just caught up with us," Landry said. "We must find young, impact players, preferably on defense."

Thank heaven and the USFL for the addition of Walker, a bright spot and the Cowboys' best hope for a quick revival. "Herschel is like having the first choice in the draft and we haven't had that type of choice since the mid-70s, when we got Ed Jones, Randy White, and Tony Dorsett and built a team around them," Landry said. "So this is our ace in the hole. Herschel could help us bridge the gap."

The return of quarterback Danny White from a wrist injury remains uncertain, however. He



fractured his right wrist when tackled by Giants' linebacker Carl Banks in week nine. Although backup Steve Pelluer performed well, White's absence was more than coincidental with the Cowboys' collapse. "If Danny comes back, we'll be in good shape because this system is a natural for him, just like San Francisco's is for Joe Montana. That's why we

were so successful early last year," he said.

Landry wonders whether Pelluer can overcome the mental anguish of the losing streak. "The quarterback is always the focal point of a losing streak, but it was not his fault by any means," he said. Landry calls Pelluer a better runner than Roger Staubach. "The guy is uncanny in his ability to escape the pass rush.

COWBOYS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Septien, 88 points on 43 extra points and 15 field goals... 6th
RUSHING—Dorsett, 748 yards on 184 carries, 4.1 avg., 5 TDs... 11th
PASSING—Pelluer, 215 of 378 attempts for 2,727 yards and 8 TDs... 9th
RECEIVING—Walker, 76 receptions for 637 yards, 11.0 avg., 2 TDs... 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Downs, 6 for 54 yards, 9.0 avg... 9th
PUNTING—Saxon, 86 punts, 40.7 avg., longest 58 yards... 9th
PUNT RETURNS—Banks, 27 for 160 yards, 5.9 avg... 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lavette, 36 for 699 yards, 19.4 avg... 12th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	15	At San Diego (N)
	22	At San Francisco (N)
	30	L.A. Raiders (N)
September	5	HOUSTON (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	At St. Louis	31-7
	20	At New York Giants	14-17
	27	BUFFALO	—
October	4	At New York Jets	—
	11	PHILADELPHIA	21-23
	19	WASHINGTON (N)	30-6
	25	At Philadelphia	17-14
November	2	NEW YORK GIANTS (N)	31-28
	8	At Detroit	31-7
	15	At New England	—
	22	MIAMI (N)	—
	26	MINNESOTA	—
December	6	ATLANTA	35-37
	13	At Washington (N)	14-41
	21	At Los Angeles Rams (N)	10-29
	27	ST. LOUIS	37-6

Even Roger, who was known as a great scrambler, could never get out as quick and run as well as Pelluer," he said. Still, Pelluer threw more than twice as many interceptions (17) as touchdown passes (8) and that isn't good enough to keep a job.

With Walker, Tony Dorsett, and wide receiver Mike Sherrard all healthy and on the field at the same time, whoever quarterbacks will have "as much big-play capability, probably more, than any other team in the league," Landry said.

Walker surprised some people by setting a club record of 76 pass receptions for 837 yards in addition to his 737 yards rushing. After inserting him at various positions, Landry finally put him at fullback, where he will stay alongside Dorsett. Now 33, Dorsett had missed only three games in his first nine seasons with Dallas. A bruised knee and sprained ankle forced him to miss three and a half games in 1986. After the season, he un-



derwent arthroscopic surgery on both knees, but Landry has no question Dorsett will rebound. Darryl Clack, Timmy Newsome, and Robert Lavette provide veteran depth.

As a rookie, Sherrard was an instant star, catching 41 passes for 744 yards and five TDs. "Our passing attack, especially the deep passing, will be built around him," Landry said. Mike Renfro would like to beat out Tony Hill for the other spot. Gordon Banks and Carl Powe are backups who will be challenged by fourth- and fifth-round draft choices Kelvin Martin and Everett Gay. Doug Cosbie and Thornton Chandler give the Cowboys two excellent tight ends. Landry promises to use Cosbie more as a receiver this year after his production fell off drastically.

The offensive line remains the biggest question mark on the team. "Tom Rafferty is pretty solid at center. Once you get past him, everything is up for grabs," Landry said. Grabs may have been a slip of the tongue. Landry would prefer that his linemen, particularly right tackle Phil Pozderac, not grab so much. Holding penalties were a problem. A tentative depth chart has Mark Tuinei and Pozderac at tackle and Glen Titensor and Crawford Ker at guard. Brian Baldinger is a versatile backup. But if the Cowboys can't get better in the line, they at least can get bigger.

With hopes for 6-3, 317-pound Nate "The Kitchen" Newton at guard, the Cowboys drafted 6-4, 322-pound Jeff "The Dining Room?" Zimmerman, a guard who had trouble adjusting to tackle at Florida. If he can play guard in Dallas, Ker might move to tackle.

With their fans crying for help on the offensive line, the Cowboys went for defensive help first in the draft, taking Nebraska tackle Danny Noonan to boost their aging front four. Randy White remains remarkable in his 13th season, but he played with a pulled hamstring and a shoulder that required surgery after last year. Fellow tackle John Dutton had his best season, but he's 35. End Too Tall Jones is 36, too old to rush the passer as he once did. Third-year man Kevin Brooks "has to be a starter," Landry said. End Jim Jeffcoat played well on the other side. Don Smerek is a good pass rusher and Mark Walen is coming off injured reserve. "We've aged in the defensive line. This is where we must improve," Landry said.

Improvement up front will help the linebackers and secondary, where Landry points out deficiencies. "We need to develop playmakers at linebacker, guys like the Giants and Bears have who beat the block, shoot in the backfield, and make the big plays," he said. Starters Jeff Rohrer, Eugene Lockhart, and Mike Hegman are fair, which isn't good enough. Steve DeOssie has a chance to beat out Lockhart and Landry is looking for more from Jesse Penn and Garth Jax.

In the secondary, Landry insists on more



aggressiveness. "We don't care about the finesse guys," he said. Strong safety Bill Bates is plenty aggressive but not fast enough to cover. Everson Walls and Ron Fellows are the starting corners. Walls is all-pro and Fellows, a pure cover man, will be challenged by second-round draft choice Ron Francis of Baylor. Free safety Michael Downs led the secondary

in tackles and Landry has hope for backups Victor Scott and Vince Albritton.

The Cowboys drafted Texas place-kicker Jeff Ward to replace Rafael Septien. Rookies usually have problems adjusting without using a tee. Mike Saxon set a club record with 86 punts that he hopes will stand for a long time. Clack and Lavette are the top kickoff-return men and Banks will compete with rookie Martin for the punt-return job.

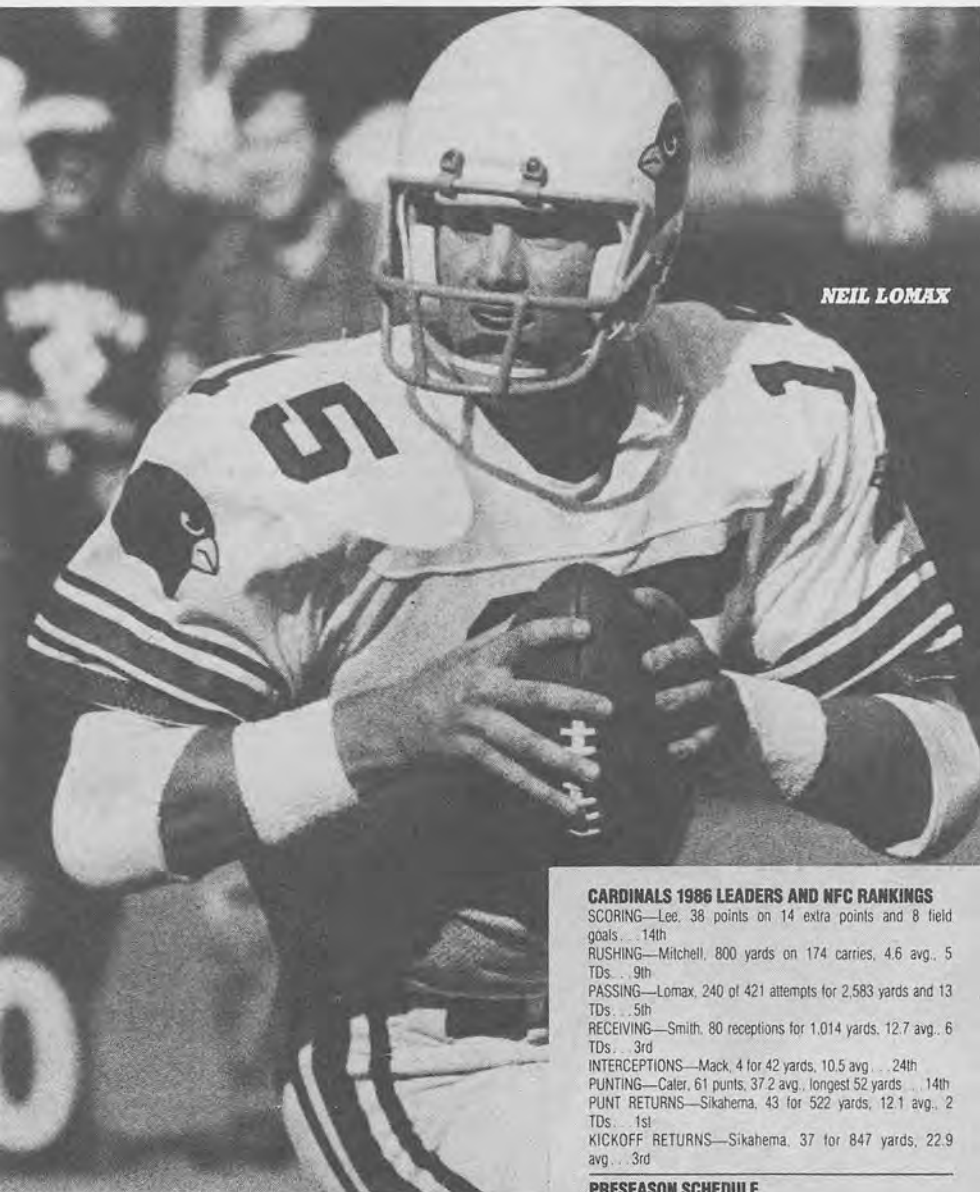
"Our goal this year is to get back into the race. We can't even think about the playoffs or the Eastern Division championship, because we were completely out of the running," Landry said. "The Giants are out ahead of everybody because they have such good defense. And they might not be the type of team that lets all the attention of winning the Super Bowl go to its head. Washington always will be tough; the Eagles are going to beat a lot of teams next year. If you want to be in contention, you're going to have to beat them."

COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
36	Albritton, Vince	S	6-2	210	25	4	Washington
62	Baldinger, Brian	G	6-4	261	28	5	Duke
87	Banks, Gordon	WR	5-10	173	29	5	Stanford
40	Bales, Bill	S	6-1	204	26	5	Tennessee
99	Brooks, Kevin	DL	6-6	273	24	3	Michigan
85	Chandler, Thornton	TE	6-5	245	24	2	Alabama
42	Clack, Darryl	RB	5-10	218	24	2	Arizona State
10	Collier, Reggie	QB	6-3	207	26	2	Southern Miss
84	Cosbie, Doug	TE	6-6	238	31	9	Santa Clara
55	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	245	25	4	Boston College
33	Dorsett, Tony	RB	5-11	189	33	11	Pittsburgh
26	Downs, Michael	S	6-3	204	28	7	Rice
78	Dutton, John	DT	6-7	261	36	14	Nebraska
27	Fellows, Ron	CB	6-0	173	29	7	Missouri
46	Fowler, Todd	FB	6-3	221	25	3	S. F. Austin
28	Granger, Norm	RB	5-10	225	26	2	Iowa
58	Hegman, Mike	LB	6-1	227	34	12	Tennessee St.
45	Hendrix, Manny	DB	5-10	178	23	2	Utah
80	Hill, Tony	WR	6-2	205	31	11	Stanford
23	Holloway, Johnny	CB	5-11	182	24	2	Kansas
53	Jax, Garth	LB	6-2	225	24	2	Florida St.
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	260	26	5	Arizona State
72	Jones, Ed	DE	6-9	273	36	13	Tennessee St.
68	Ker, Crawford	G	6-3	285	25	3	Florida
29	Lavette, Robert	RB	5-11	190	24	3	Georgia Tech
56	Lockhart, Eugene	LB	6-2	235	26	4	Houston
14	McDonald, Paul	QB	6-2	185	29	8	Southern Cal
30	Newsome, Timmy	FB	6-1	237	29	8	Winston-Salem
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	317	26	2	Florida A&M
16	Pelluer, Steve	QB	6-4	208	25	4	Washington
59	Penn, Jesse	LB	6-3	218	25	3	Virginia Tech
65	Peterson, Kurt	G	6-4	272	30	7	Missouri
81	Powe, Karl	WR	6-2	178	25	2	Alabama St.
75	Pozderac, Phil	T	6-9	283	28	6	Noire Dame
64	Rafferty, Tom	C	6-3	262	33	12	Penn State
82	Renfro, Mike	WR	6-0	187	32	10	TCU
70	Richards, Howard	T	6-6	269	28	7	Missouri
50	Rohrer, Jeff	LB	6-2	227	29	6	Yale
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	188	25	3	San Diego St.
22	Scott, Victor	DB	6-0	203	25	4	Colorado
86	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	24	2	UCLA
60	Smerek, Don	DT	6-7	262	30	7	Nevada-Reno
63	Titensor, Glen	G	6-4	270	29	7	BYU
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	285	27	5	Hawaii
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6-1	223	25	2	Georgia
24	Walls, Everson	CB	6-1	193	28	7	Grambling
11	White, Danny	QB	6-3	197	35	12	Arizona State
54	White, Randy	DT	6-4	265	34	13	Maryland

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Noonan, Danny	DL	6-4	280	Nebraska
2	Francis, Ron	CB	5-9	206	Baylor
3	Zimmerman, Jeff	G	6-4	322	Florida
4	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	161	Boston Coll
5	Gay, Everett	WR	6-2	204	Texas
6	Onosai, Joe	DL	6-3	283	Hawaii
7	Sweeney, Kevin	QB	6-0	191	Fresno State
8	Grogan, Kevin	OT	6-7	295	Washington
9	Blount, Alvin	RB	5-9	197	Maryland
10	Jones, Dale	LB	6-1	234	Tennessee
11	Ward, Jeff	PK	5-9	169	Texas
12	Armstrong, Scott	LB	6-1	230	Florida



NEIL LOMAX

If they are, it's unfortunate the Cardinals must play in the NFC East, where progress is measured against some of the best teams in football twice a year. The Cardinals could get a lot better in 1987 and still finish in fifth place.

If the drafting of Stouffer surprised Stallings, it also shook up both Stouffer and incumbent Neil Lomax. At least the Cardinals hope it shook up Lomax. Unless they dump him before the season starts, the Cardinals wanted to motivate Lomax by drafting Stouffer. Lomax is a puzzling case, as most issues surrounding the Cardinals are. He has not been nearly the quarterback he was in 1983 and 1984. There are varying theories, not the least of which cites the Cardinals' lack of healthy receivers. When Roy Green returned at the end of last season, for example, Lomax completed 63 percent of his passes and threw six touchdowns as the Cardinals finished with a 2-2-1 record. But there are other raps against Lomax. He was sacked 52 times last year and seems unable to get out of trouble anymore. He has failed to show much offseason enthusiasm and other teams interested in trading for him have been turned off by his attitude. Stouffer has a big arm, but is not widely regarded as the kind of prospect who can step in immediately and turn around an ailing franchise. The only other viable candidate on the roster is Cliff Stoudt, who beat out Lomax last year but lasted only two games.

In defense of whoever lines up at quarterback, the Cardinals need more help at wide receiver than they got in the draft, which was

CARDINALS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lee, 38 points on 14 extra points and 8 field goals . . . 14th
RUSHING—Mitchell, 800 yards on 174 carries, 4.6 avg., 5 TDs . . . 9th
PASSING—Lomax, 240 of 421 attempts for 2,583 yards and 13 TDs . . . 5th
RECEIVING—Smith, 80 receptions for 1,014 yards, 12.7 avg., 6 TDs . . . 3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Mack, 4 for 42 yards, 10.5 avg. . . 24th
PUNTING—Cater, 61 punts, 37.2 avg., longest 52 yards . . . 14th
PUNT RETURNS—Sikahema, 43 for 522 yards, 12.1 avg., 2 TDs . . . 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Sikahema, 37 for 847 yards, 22.9 avg. . . 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 At Cleveland (N)
22 SEATTLE (N)
31 At Chicago (N)
September 6 Kansas City (at Memphis, TN)

1987 SCHEDULE

	1987 SCHEDULE	1986 SCORES
September	13 DALLAS	7-31
	20 At San Diego	—
	27 INDIANAPOLIS	—
October	4 At Washington	21-28
	11 NEW ORLEANS	7-16
	18 At San Francisco	17-43
	25 At New York Giants	7-27
November	1 PHILADELPHIA	13-10
	8 TAMPA BAY	21-17
	15 LOS ANGELES RAMS	10-16
	22 At Philadelphia (OT)	10-10
	29 At Atlanta	13-33
December	6 WASHINGTON	17-20
	13 NEW YORK GIANTS	6-13
	20 At Tampa Bay	30-19
	27 At Dallas	6-37

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Even coach Gene Stallings has trouble figuring out what the St. Louis Cardinals are thinking. They drafted quarterback Kelly Stouffer of Colorado State in the first round when Stallings would have preferred a pass rusher. Maybe the Cardinal scouting department thought he told them passer.

The Cardinals could use a passer, too, as well as a few pass receivers and pass defenders. Overall, things were bad for the Cardinals in 1986 and look worse for 1987. Owner Bill Bidwill has been complaining about Busch Stadium being too small, but he hasn't sold enough season tickets to fill half of it.

The Cardinals finished fourth in overall defense last season, first against the pass. Both are somewhat misleading statistics since they were 25th against the run. Still, it was an outstanding accomplishment for Stallings in his initial season. Yet he is revamping the defense, going back to a 4-3 after switching to a 3-4. Stallings reasoned he just didn't have the linebackers even though there are three first-rounders on his roster: E. J. Junior, Freddie Joe Nunn, and Anthony Bell.

There are signs that Bidwill has already grown impatient with Stallings, who would like more say in things like the draft. "He has an ego," Bidwill said last season. "Everyone makes mistakes, including Gene Stallings. I know that comes as a great shock to him."

"I think I'm building a football team the best way I know how to do it," Stallings said. "I think we're showing some progress."



ROY GREEN

nothing. This oversight seemed especially strange for a team that went into one game last year fielding only one receiver who had caught a pass in the NFL. Green, once a superstar, has missed nine games in the last two years and is now 30. The Cardinals' saving grace at the position last year was 31-year-old Chiefs' castoff J.T. Smith. He caught 80 balls for 1,014 yards and six touchdowns, his best

year ever. Behind Smith and Green, things get thin in a hurry. Eric Swanson is a prospect in his second year and Troy Johnson is an intriguing addition who ran a 4.28 in the 40 last spring, but he has virtually no experience, even in college.

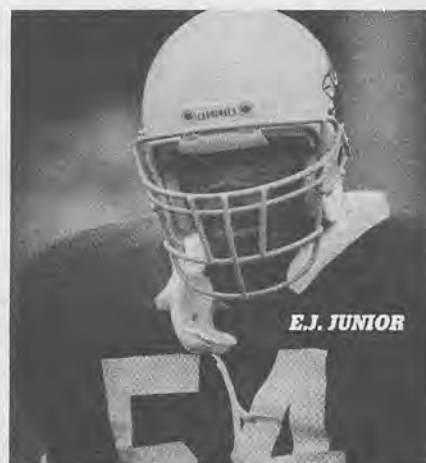
At tight end, things aren't much better. The Cards spent two draft choices—a third for San Diego State's Robert Awalt and a seventh for Bishop's William Harris—to come up with competition for starter Doug Marsh and backup Jay Novacek. Awalt looks like he has the job if he lives up to his potential.

At running back, the Cardinals are in better shape for starters, but in the same predicament for backups. Stump Mitchell got beat up in his first year as the feature back, but played with bad knees and injured ribs nevertheless. He gained 800 yards rushing and 517 more receiving. Fullback Earl Ferrell continued his career as an unsung hero, gaining 548 yards and finishing second to Smith in pass receptions. When Mitchell needs a breather, Ferrell sometimes goes to tailback, with Craig Wol-

veterans Mark Duda and Bob Clasyby expecting competition from third-rounder Colin Scotts of Hawaii and sixth-rounder Mark Garalczyk of Western Michigan.

At linebacker, Stallings has installed Bell on the left side and moved middle linebacker Junior to the weak side. Tough Niko Noga is slated for the middle. Veteran outside backer Charles Baker and fifth-rounder Ilia Jarostchuk of New Hampshire are in reserve.

The Cardinals are thin in the secondary, too. Second-year man Carl Carter is still learning how to play cornerback. On the other side, Cedric Mack is coming off shoulder surgery. Wayne Smith is the only reserve now that the Cardinals traded veteran Lionel Washington. Strong safety Leonard Smith is a Pro Bowl-caliber player who can force the run and cover the pass. Free safety Lonnie Young played



fley going to fullback. Rookie George Swann of Miami (OH), a fifth-rounder, has a chance to get plenty of playing time.

Unsettled is a good description of the offensive line. Left tackle Luis Sharpe was the only member to start all 16 games last year. Huge Tootie Robbins figures to stay at right tackle, but it looks like second-year man Ray Brown will play somewhere. If Doug Dawson recovers from an Achilles injury and moves from left guard to center, Brown could play left guard. Second-year center Gene Chilton needs seasoning, so former USFL player Mike Ruether could play center. Joe Bostic is a fixture at right guard if he recovers from knee surgery. Derek Kennard is also in the hunt.

On defense, Stallings went back to the drawing board even without draft help up front, where he needs it. The forced retirement of end Curtis Greer with knee problems means nose tackle David Galloway will try his considerable talents at left end opposite veteran rusher Al Baker in the new four-man front. Former linebacker Nunn also will be used as a pass-rushing end and fourth-round draft choice Rod Saddler of Texas A&M figures to be a factor. The tackle spots are open, with

well, but apparently not well enough to keep the Cardinals from using their second-round draft choice to add USC's Tim McDonald.

The Cardinals have made only 24 of 52 field-goal attempts the last two years, which is only one reason they averaged a mere 13 points a game last season. John Lee, a second-round draft choice last spring, is coming off arthroscopic surgery on his kicking knee. He made only one of five kicks from beyond 40 yards, but his college career indicates he is better than he showed. The Cardinals spent a fifth-round choice on a punter, Penn State's John Bruno, who will earn his keep quickly if the Cardinals don't correct their offensive problems.

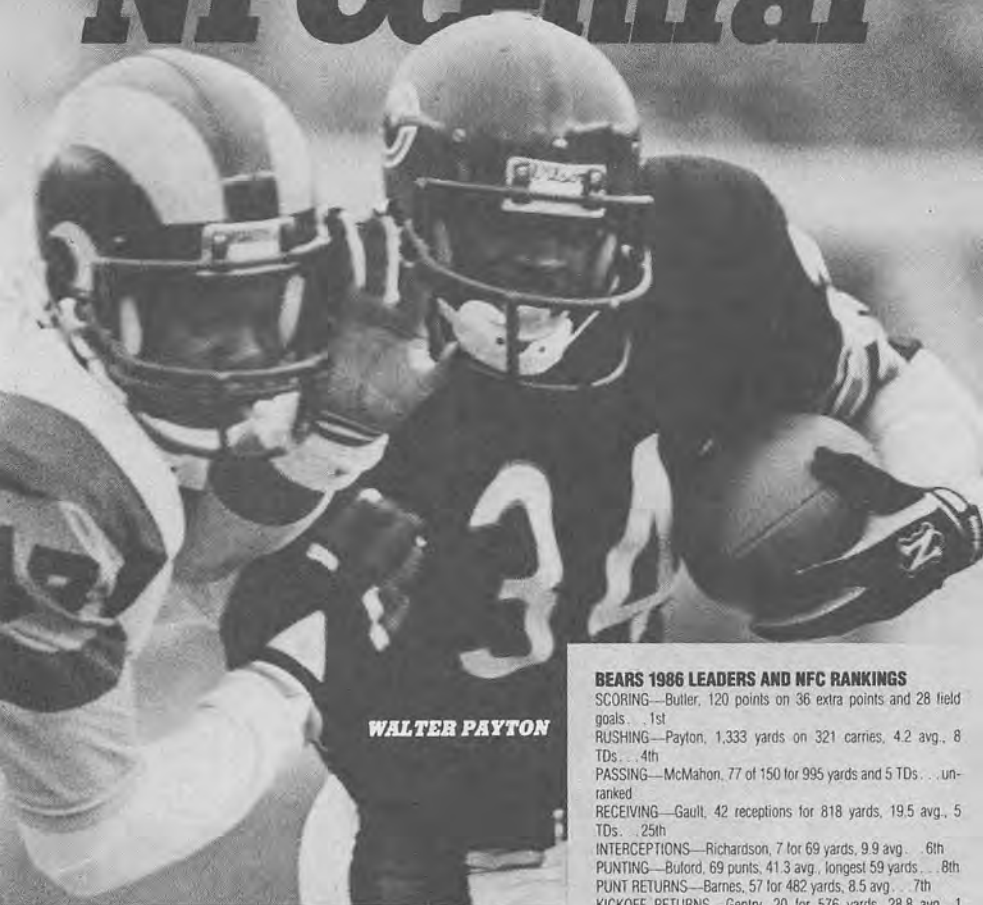
CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
16	Austin, Kent	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Mississippi
60	Baker, Al	DE	6-6	270	31	10	Colorado St.
52	Baker, Charlie	OLB	6-2	234	30	8	New Mexico
55	Bell, Anthony	OLB	6-3	231	23	2	Michigan St.
72	Bergold, Scott	DE	6-7	263	26	3	Wisconsin
71	Bostic, Joe	G	6-3	268	30	9	Clemson
62	Brown, Ray	OL	6-5	257	25	2	Arkansas St.
89	Boso, Cap	TE	6-3	224	25	2	Illinois
41	Carter, Carl	CB	5-11	180	23	2	Texas Tech
14	Cater, Greg	P	6-0	191	30	6	Tenn.-Chatt.
58	Chilton, Gene	C	6-3	271	23	2	Texas
79	Clasyby, Bob	DE	6-5	260	27	2	Notre Dame
66	Dawson, Doug	G	6-3	267	26	4	Texas
56	DiBernardo, Rick	ILB	6-3	225	23	2	Notre Dame
35	Drain, Eric	FB	6-2	210	23	1	Missouri
73	Duda, Mark	NT	6-3	279	26	5	Maryland
31	Ferrell, Earl	FB	6-0	224	29	6	E. Tenn. St.
65	Galloway, David	NT	6-3	279	28	6	Florida
81	Green, Roy	WR	6-0	195	30	9	Henderson St.
75	Greer, Curtis	DE	6-4	258	30	8	Michigan
82	Holmes, Don	WR	5-10	180	26	2	Mesa
78	Hughes, Van	DE	6-3	280	27	2	S.W. Texas St.
87	Johnson, Troy	WR	6-1	175	25	2	Southern
54	Junior, E.J.	ILB	6-3	235	28	7	Alabama
70	Kennard, Derek	G	6-3	285	25	2	Nevada-Reno
10	Lee, John	K	5-11	182	23	2	UCLA
15	Lomax, Neil	QB	6-3	215	28	7	Portland St.
47	Mack, Cedric	CB	6-0	194	27	5	Baylor
80	Marsh, Doug	TE	6-3	238	29	8	Michigan
76	Mays, Stafford	DE	6-2	255	29	8	Washington
30	Mitchell, Stump	HB	5-9	188	28	7	Citadel
59	Monaco, Ron	LB	6-1	225	24	2	So. Carolina
57	Noga, Niko	ILB	6-1	235	25	4	Hawaii
85	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	217	25	3	Wyoming
53	Nunn, Freddie Joe	OLB	6-4	228	25	3	Mississippi
63	Robbins, Tootie	T	6-5	302	29	6	East Carolina
51	Ruether, Mike	C	6-4	275	25	2	Texas
39	Sargent, Broderick	FB	5-10	215	25	2	Baylor
11	Schubert, Eric	K	5-8	193	25	3	Pittsburgh
67	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-2	260	27	6	UCLA
36	Sikahema, Vai	HB	5-9	191	25	2	BYU
84	Smith, J.T.	WR	6-2	185	32	10	North Texas St.
61	Smith, Lance	T	6-2	262	24	3	LSU
45	Smith, Leonard	SS	5-11	202	27	5	McNeese St.
44	Smith, Wayne	CB	6-0	170	30	8	Purdue
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4	215	32	9	Youngstown St.
86	Swanson, Eric	WR	5-11	186	24	2	Tennessee
83	Tilley, Pat	WR	5-10	178	34	12	Louisiana Tech
24	Woffley, Ron	FB	6-0	222	25	3	West Virginia
43	Young, Lonnie	FS	6-1	182	24	3	Michigan St.

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Stoutler, Kelly	QB	6-3	214	Colorado State
2	McDonald, Tim	SS	6-3	205	Southern Cal
3	Awalt, Robert	TE	6-5	240	San Diego State
3	Scotts, Colin	DT	6-6	265	Hawaii
4	Saddler, Rod	DL	6-5	265	Texas A&M
5	Swann, George	RB	5-10	205	Miami (OH)
5	Bruno, John	P	6-1	200	Penn State
5	Jarostchuk, Ilia	LB	6-1	200	New Hampshire
6	Garalczyk, Mark	DT	6-5	272	West. Michigan
7	Peoples, Tim	DB	6-0	200	Washington
7	Harris, William	TE	6-4	243	Bishop
8	Alford, Steve	DT	6-4	272	Washington
9	Davis, Wayne	LB	6-1	213	Alabama
10	Wright, Charles	DB	5-9	178	Tulsa
11	Peal, Todd	OG	6-2	294	Northern Illinois

NFC Central



WALTER PAYTON

CHICAGO BEARS

After winning more games in the last three years than any other team in any three-year span, the Chicago Bears need to remind people they are still around. They followed a 15-1 record in 1985 with a 14-2 mark in 1986, so the tendency might be to imagine the Bears going downhill. Historians lump them with every other club that has failed to repeat a Super Bowl victory.

The Bears, as usual, look at things from a slightly different perspective. Feisty coach Mike Ditka can't wait until the season opener against the world champion Giants. Ditka wanted to play the Giants in last year's NFC championship game with Doug Flutie at quarterback. Even after the Redskins eliminated Flutie and the Bears a week earlier than the title game, Ditka refused to join the chorus of praise for the Giants as the new dynasty. "We don't measure ourselves against the Giants or anybody else," Ditka said.

To others, Ditka will make more sense if quarterback Jim McMahon manages to come back strong from major shoulder surgery. Although a return from rotator cuff damage is no easy accomplishment, the concern in Chicago is not so much whether McMahon can come back; it's whether he can stay back. Because of McMahon's shaky health record, the Bears made Michigan's Jim Harbaugh their No. 1 pick in the draft, a move that made even Ditka second guess. Ditka thinks Flutie is "a special little guy," which puts the coach in a minority among NFL personnel experts who can't imagine Flutie is big enough to compete on a high level.

BEARS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Butler, 120 points on 36 extra points and 28 field goals... 1st
RUSHING—Payton, 1,333 yards on 321 carries, 4.2 avg., 8 TDs... 4th
PASSING—McMahon, 77 of 150 for 995 yards and 5 TDs... un-ranked
RECEIVING—Gault, 42 receptions for 818 yards, 19.5 avg., 5 TDs... 25th
INTERCEPTIONS—Richardson, 7 for 69 yards, 9.9 avg... 6th
PUNTING—Bulford, 69 punts, 41.3 avg., longest 59 yards... 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Barnes, 57 for 482 yards, 8.5 avg... 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Gentry, 20 for 576 yards, 28.8 avg., 1 TD... 1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 16 At Miami (N)
22 PITTSBURGH (N)
31 ST. LOUIS (N)
September 5 At L.A. Raiders

1987 SCHEDULE

September 14 NEW YORK GIANTS (N)
20 TAMPA BAY
27 At Detroit... 48-14
October 4 At Philadelphia... (OT) 13-10
11 MINNESOTA... 23-0
18 NEW ORLEANS
25 At Tampa Bay... 23-3
November 1 KANSAS CITY
8 At Green Bay... 25-12
16 At Denver (N)
22 DETROIT... 13-7
29 GREEN BAY... 12-10
December 6 At Minnesota (N)... 7-23
14 At San Francisco (N)
20 SEATTLE
27 At Los Angeles Raiders

1986 SCORES

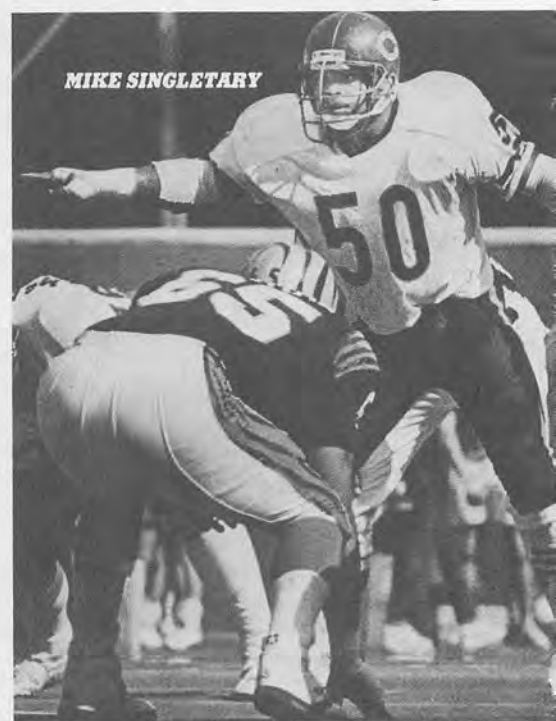
Even if McMahon does return, there is speculation the Bears want to get rid of him because he talks too much and refuses to say nice things about club president Michael McCaskey or Ditka. The Bears deny interest in dumping their celebrity. To a man, they proclaim him their No. 1 quarterback provided he is healthy. But they always cite statistics that would frighten any long-range planner: McMahon has played in only 28 of the last 48 games during the past three regular seasons. He has led the Bears to victory in his last 23 starts including playoffs, but the Bears have played 47 games during that span. Part-time players are of little value in the NFL.

Even without McMahon, the Bears are formidable because they run and play defense

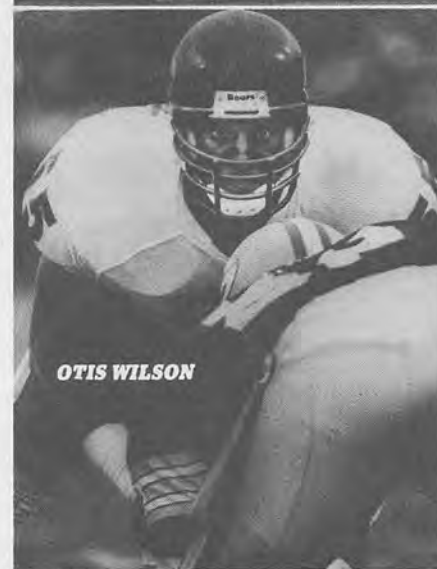
as well as anybody in recent years. They have led the league in rushing for four years in a row and in defense for three straight years. They show no sign of decline in either area.

After drafting Harbaugh, the Bears turned to another area of concern—wide receiver. They took SMU's Ron Morris in the second round to provide insurance behind Dennis McKinnon, who is coming off knee surgery. After leading the Bears in touchdown catches and blocking by a wideout during their Super Bowl year, McKinnon missed all of 1986. Keith Ortego and Dennis Gentry also are factors at McKinnon's flanker's spot opposite speedy split end Willie Gault, who makes defenses back up and opens the running game. Ditka is looking for more help at tight end, where 32-year-old Emery Moorehead starts and Tim Wrightman plays. Second-year prospect Riley Walton is a possibility.

At running back, Ditka is looking for a way to get last year's No. 1 draft choice, Neal Anderson, onto the field more without sacrificing



MIKE SINGLETARY



OTIS WILSON

playing time for all-time great Walter Payton. At age 32, Payton is determined to stay at the top of his game for at least one more year, saying whoever plays ahead of him "will have to be the most valuable player in the league." Anderson showed enough flashes of promise last season to deserve a bigger shot. So did Thomas Sanders, who outshone both Payton and Eric Dickerson in one Monday night game against the Rams. At fullback, the Bears have reliable Matt Suhey and big Calvin Thomas, who complement the halfbacks nicely. But Ditka is contemplating formations with both Anderson and Payton in the same backfield.

The offensive line remains young and intact with tackles Jimbo Covert and Keith Van Horne, guards Mark Bortz and Tom Thayer, and center Jay Hilgenberg. Covert and Hilgenberg are two-time Pro Bowl starters and Bortz and Thayer aren't far behind. Ditka would like ex-guard Kurt Becker or second-year giant Paul Blair to push Van Horne. As a unit, the line is big, strong, durable, and doesn't get the credit it deserves for helping the Bears become the first team to lead the league in rushing for four straight years since the 1939-42 Bears.

On defense, the Bears have great personnel, especially in their front seven. In an age when the distinction between 4-3 and 3-4 fronts is dissolving because of so many variations, football people are starting to refer to "front sevens." Like the Giants, the Bears have a versatile and powerful front seven that is the envy of the league. Six of the seven have been to at least one of the last two Pro Bowls. The only one who has stayed home is William "The Refrigerator" Perry, the most famous football player in the world.

Left end Dan Hampton and right end Richard Dent are two of the best run stoppers and pass rushers in the business. Hampton can move inside in passing situations and Dent

can play linebacker if necessary. Perry and Steve McMichael are formidable inside, and if Perry can keep his weight closer to 310 than to 330, Ditka wants to see him play some at end, as well as use him again as his goal-line fullback. The Bears hope Al Harris can return to his 1984 pre-free agent form and contribute as an end more than as a linebacker. At 267 pounds, he has the ability to play both. The Bears drafted three ends and a tackle to provide depth.

At linebacker, weak-side starter Wilber Marshall is in Lawrence Taylor's class as a force, except Marshall plays better pass defense. Middle linebacker Mike Singletary is an all-pro who calls the signals and serves as the Bears' coach on the field. Left linebacker Otis Wilson is an emotional player who forms the third link in what the trio calls "The Bermuda Triangle." Ron Rivera is a talented backup.

When defensive coordinator Vince Tobin replaced Buddy Ryan after the Super Bowl, the Bears' cornerbacks suddenly improved because Tobin's system protected them more. Left cornerback Mike Richardson played as well as any corner in the NFC and right cornerback Vestee Jackson broke into the lineup as a rookie. Third-year man Reggie Phillips will push to regain a starting job. At safety, the Bears are unmatched. Strong safety Dave Duerson had a spectacular year with six interceptions and eight sacks, an unparalleled combination for a defensive back. Free safety Gary Fencik is expecting another good season at age 32. Backups Todd Bell and Shaun Gayle could start almost anywhere. Bell was a 1984 Pro Bowler.

Place-kicker Kevin Butler suffered a couple of slumps, but won enough games last year for Ditka to say he wouldn't want anyone else in the league kicking for him in pressure situations. Punter Maury Buford continues to improve, but he might miss the spectacular cov-

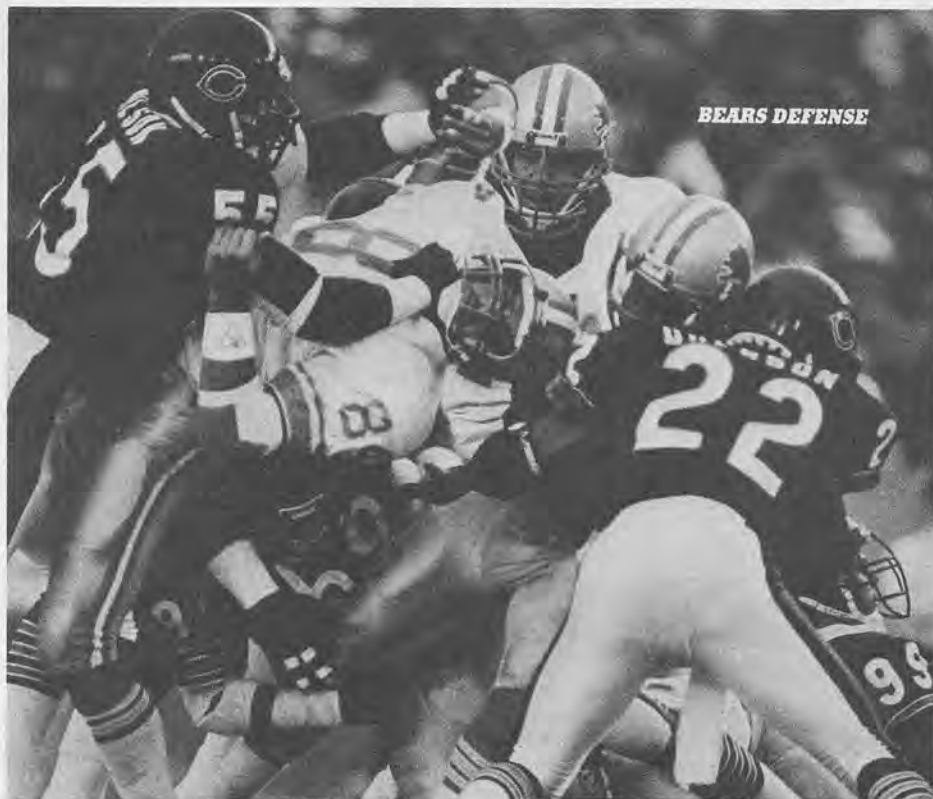
ering skills of Neal Anderson, who probably won't be used on so many special teams. The explosive and underrated Gentry led the league in kickoff returns and Lew Barnes showed punt-return potential as a rookie. Kickoff coverage is a problem, but as long as the Bears kick off often, Ditka doesn't mind.

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	NFL exp	college
35	Anderson, Neal	RB	5-11	210	23	2	Florida
81	Barnes, Lew	WR	5-8	163	25	2	Oregon
79	Becker, Kurt	G	6-5	267	29	6	Michigan
25	Bell, Todd	S	6-1	205	29	6	Ohio State
68	Blair, Paul	T	6-4	295	24	2	Oklahoma St.
62	Bortz, Mark	G	6-6	269	26	5	Iowa
11	Brown, Kevan	P	6-2	178	24	R	W. Texas St.
37	Buford, Maury	P	6-1	191	27	3	Texas Tech
6	Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	195	25	3	Georgia
64	Carter, Ronnie	OG	6-3	265	24	R	Georgia So.
74	Covert, Jim	T	6-4	271	27	5	Pittsburgh
95	Dent, Richard	DE	6-5	263	27	5	Tenn. State
37	Duglass, Maurice	DB	5-11	200	23	2	Kentucky
30	Duane, George	DB	5-9	178	23	R	No. Arizona
22	Duerson, Dave	S	6-1	203	27	5	Notre Dame
45	Fencik, Gary	S	6-1	196	33	12	Yale
2	Flutie, Doug	QB	5-9	176	25	2	Boston College
21	Frazier, Leslie	CB	6-0	187	28	6	Alcorn State
4	Fuller, Steve	QB	6-4	195	30	9	Clemson
83	Gault, Willie	WR	6-1	183	27	5	Tennessee
23	Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	193	25	4	Ohio St.
99	Gentry, Dennis	WR	5-8	181	28	6	Baylor
99	Hampton, Dan	DE	6-5	267	30	9	Arkansas
90	Harris, Al	LB/DE	6-5	267	31	8	Arizona State
73	Harlestone, Mike	DE	6-3	254	34	13	Penn. State
96	Hendrix, Tim	TE	6-5	235	22	R	Tennessee
63	Hilgenberg, Jay	C	6-3	265	27	7	Iowa
44	Hintz, Mike	DB	6-1	190	22	R	W. Platteville
75	Humphries, Stefan	G	6-3	268	25	4	Michigan
24	Jackson, Vestee	CB	6-0	186	24	2	Washington
49	January, Mike	LB	6-1	234	23	R	Texas
36	Kalantzis, Kyle	DB	5-11	192	23	R	Hawaii
98	Kozlowski, Glen	WR	6-1	193	25	1	BYU
82	Krenk, Mitch	TE	6-2	233	28	2	Nebraska
58	Marshall, Wilber	LB	6-1	225	25	4	Florida
85	McKinnon, Dennis	WR	6-1	185	26	4	Florida State
9	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	190	28	6	BYU
76	McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	265	30	8	Texas
98	Mitchell, Bennie	WR	5-10	159	22	R	N.E. Louisiana
87	Moorehead, Emery	TE	6-2	220	33	11	Colorado
51	Morrissey, Jim	LB	6-3	220	25	3	Michigan State
69	Norvell, Jay	LB	6-4	225	24	1	Iowa
89	Ortego, Keith	WR	6-0	180	24	3	McNeese State
34	Payton, Walter	RB	5-10	202	33	13	Jackson St.
72	Perry, William	DT	6-2	325	25	3	Clemson
48	Phillips, Reggie	DB	5-10	170	27	3	S. Methodist
86	Pickering, Clay	WR	6-5	215	26	3	Maine
91	Popp, Jim	TE	6-5	245	24	1	Vanderbilt
53	Rains, Dan	LB	6-1	222	31	4	Cincinnati
27	Richardson, Mike	CB	6-0	188	26	5	Arizona St.
59	Rivera, Ron	LB	6-3	238	25	4	California
47	Romasko, Dave	FB/TE	6-3	231	24	R	Carroll Col.
52	Rubens, Larry	C	6-2	262	28	4	Montana State
20	Sanders, Thomas	RB	5-11	203	25	3	Texas A&M
46	Siebler, Bryan	DB	5-11	194	23	R	Nebraska
50	Singletary, Mike	LB	6-0	228	29	7	Baylor
65	Sowell, Brent	T/G	6-5	288	24	1	Alabama
26	Suhey, Matt	FB	5-11	216	29	8	Penn. State
93	Taggart, Ed	TE	6-3	222	23	R	Ohio State
57	Thayer, Tom	C	6-4	280	26	3	Notre Dame
33	Thomas, Calvin	FB	5-11	245	27	6	Illinois
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	195	25	3	Ohio State
78	Van Horne, Keith	T	6-6	280	30	7	USC
70	Waechter, Henry	DT	6-5	275	28	6	Nebraska
82	Walton, Riley	TE	6-3	230	25	1	Tenn. State
55	Wilson, Otis	LB	6-2	232	30	8	Louisville
60	Wojciechowski, Joe	G	6-4	262	24	1	Michigan State
80	Wrightman, Tim	TE	6-3	237	27	3	UCLA

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	207	Michigan
2	Morris, Ron	WR	6-1	192	SMU
4	Smith, Sean	DL	6-4	275	Grambling
5	Bryan, Steve	DE	6-3	260	Oklahoma
5	Johnson, Will	DE	6-5	240	NE Louisiana
6	Adickes, John	C	6-3	266	Baylor
7	Harris, Archie	OT	6-6	270	Wm. & Mary
8	Migliazzo, Paul	LB	6-1	228	Oklahoma
9	Heimuli, Lakei	RB	5-11	219	BYU
10	Chapura, Dick	DT	6-3	275	Missouri
11	Jessie, Tim	WR	5-11	190	Auburn
12	Jeffries, Erick	DB	5-10	161	Texas



TOMMY KRAMER

VIKINGS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—C. Nelson, 110 points on 44 extra points and 22 field goals . . . 3rd
RUSHING—D. Nelson, 793 yards on 191 carries, 4.2 avg., 4 TDs . . . 10th
PASSING—Kramer, 208 of 372 attempts for 3,000 yards and 24 TDs . . . 1st
RECEIVING—Jordan, 58 receptions for 859 yards, 14.8 avg., 6 TDs . . . 12th
INTERCEPTIONS—Holt, 8 for 54 yards, 6.8 avg. . . 5th
PUNTING—Coleman, 67 punts, 41.4 avg., longest 69 yards . . . 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Bess, 23 for 162 yards, 7.0 avg. . . 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bess, 31 for 705 yards, 22.7 avg. . . 4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 At New Orleans (N)
 22 INDIANAPOLIS (N)
 29 NEW ENGLAND (N)
 September 3 At Denver (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September 13 DETROIT . . . 10-13
 20 At Los Angeles Rams . . . —
 27 At Kansas City . . . —
 October 4 GREEN BAY . . . 42-7
 11 At Chicago . . . 0-23
 18 TAMPA BAY . . . 45-13
 25 DENVER . . . —
 November 1 At Seattle . . . —
 8 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS . . . —
 15 At Tampa Bay . . . 23-10
 22 ATLANTA . . . —
 26 At Dallas . . . —
 December 6 Chicago(N) . . . 23-7
 13 vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee . . . 32-6
 20 At Detroit (N) . . . 10-24
 26 WASHINGTON . . . (OT)38-44

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

The Minnesota Vikings need only to finish what they start in order to challenge the Chicago Bears in the Central Division. Last year, they started out 5-2 only to finish 9-7. They blew fourth-quarter leads in losses to Cleveland, the Giants, and Washington. One more victory would have put them into the playoffs. A loss to the Houston Oilers in week 15 kept them from a wild-card berth. This year, coach Jerry Burns will be looking for that extra something that was missing. In his initial year at the helm, Burns was far from satisfied.

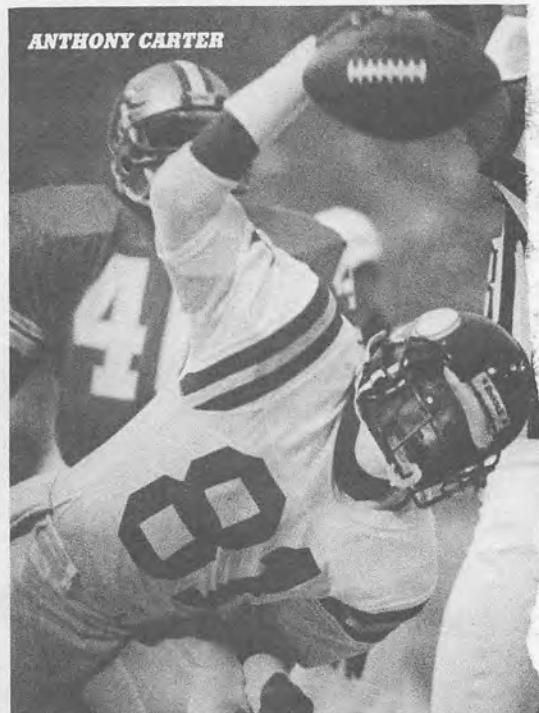
"I said earlier in the year we were in the middle of the pack and I hoped we could rise to the top of the middle. We did, but we didn't stay there. We're back in the middle of the pack," Burns said.

To reverse their puzzling late collapses, the Vikings think they need only a few more players in the right places. They hope they got one in versatile running back D. J. Dozier.

"The nucleus of this team is right here," Burns said. "This team has got to get better and improve from a technique standpoint and intelligence standpoint."

"Next time will be a different story," said safety Joey Browner. "We have to learn to get on them early and stay on them and put them

ANTHONY CARTER



away. In some games, we didn't get a first down when we needed one or the defense didn't hold. We have a few details to clear up and we'll be as good as the other teams."

At quarterback, the Vikings already are as good as the other teams. Tommy Kramer is coming off his best season in his 10th year. He led the league in passing, which may or may not be a good sign for the future. Kramer has a history of blowing hot and cold. In 1985, for example, he led the league in interceptions with 26. After a hot year in 1986, is it time to get cold again in 1987? His supporters maintain that the improvement around him will iron out his inconsistencies. A fiery competitor, Kramer always tried to do more than one quarterback should. To avoid sacks, for example,

he threw into coverage. Better blocking and better running will allow Kramer the luxury of sticking to his role and reducing mistakes. Traditionally, Kramer is a thorn in the side of the Bears through both thick and thin years. Starting the season, he is the only quarterback in the division who is both proven and healthy. Such stability gives the Vikings an edge before anyone steps onto the field.

Backing up Kramer is Wade Wilson, a reliable veteran who has performed well. But Kramer's value was demonstrated when he was injured in a last-minute loss to the Giants. Kramer missed the next week against the Bengals and the Vikings lost in a pivotal game during the playoff drive.

At receiver, the Vikings are well-stocked. Kramer's outstanding season was rewarded with a Pro Bowl trip and tight end Steve Jordan, his favorite receiver, was voted to the team as well. Only the Giants' Mark Bavaro had a better year. Jordan has caught more passes for more yards than any other Viking tight end. Kramer also has excellent outside threats in Anthony Carter and Leo Lewis. Both averaged over 18 yards a catch and Jordan averaged close to 15, giving the Vikings one of the longest passing games in the league. Carter scored a team-high seven touchdowns and is a game-breaker. Another intriguing possibility at wide receiver is the immensely-talented Buster Rhymes. The 6-2, 218-pound Rhymes has demonstrated his ability on kick returns. Once he understands the intricacies of the passing game that he never learned at

run-oriented Oklahoma, he could be a formidable threat. Second-year man Hassan Jones also showed ability by scoring four touchdowns when Carter was hurt briefly last year.

Kramer uses his running backs as targets as well as any passer, and Darrin Nelson catches as well as any running back. He averaged 11.2 per reception, the best among NFC backs. By contrast, San Francisco's Roger Craig averaged only 7.7 yards a catch. Nelson is the Vikings' best runner and he will be helped this year by Dozier, who should fit into the varied attack of the Vikings right away. He is an all-purpose back like Alfred Anderson, Allen Rice, and Ted Brown.

More than anything else, Kramer's year was attributed to improved protection by an offensive line that was helped considerably by the addition of left tackle Gary Zimmerman from the USFL. The rest of the line is experienced and more than adequate. Guards Jim Hough and Terry Tausch, center Dennis Swilley, and right tackle Tim Irwin are backed up capably by Kirk Lowdermilk, Curtis Rouse, and David Huffman. Lowdermilk could push for a starting spot in '87.

The Vikings got through a draft without making a defensive lineman a No. 1 choice for a change. But after Dozier, they made defensive players their next three picks and all are expected to contribute immediately. Last year's No. 1, Gerald Robinson, did not make much of an impact, but he could push for a starting job this year as left end Doug Martin enters his eighth season. The No. 1 two years ago, Chris Doleman, was moved from linebacker to right end, where his production is expected to improve. Tackle Keith Millard led the club in sacks with 10 1/2 playing beside big Tim "Ice Box" Newton. Competing for playing time will be third-round draft choice Henry Thomas of LSU, an aggressive tackle.

At linebacker, the undersized Chris Martin will be pushed by second-round choice Ray Berry of Baylor, who also could play inside. Last year's 12th-round surprise, Jesse Solomon, will be difficult for veteran Scott Studwell to keep on special teams forever. David Howard is the right-side starter. Jeff Schuh and Walker Lee Ashley are backups.

tions last year tied him for second in the league for his position.

Chuck Nelson proved a capable place-kicker after the Rams gave up on him, although he missed almost as many extra points (3) as field goals (6). Greg Coleman is one of the league's more experienced punters and also can run for first downs in a pinch, as the Bears found out in a Viking victory. Rhymes and Bess are kick-return specialists.

Beating the Bears once last year provided much-needed confidence. But the losses in close games are something the Vikings have to reverse. Defensive end Mark Mullaney, the only veteran to play in a Super Bowl with the Vikings, remembers how they always pulled out the close ones.

"We got a fumble, stopped teams on fourth down, blocked a field goal," Mullaney said. "I think it's an attitude you acquire from winning. We let some get away last year, but you've got to win games to be a champ."

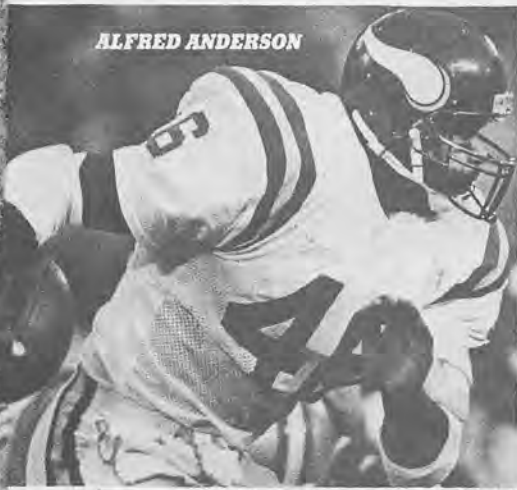
VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
46	Anderson, Alfred	RB	6-1	220	26	3	Baylor
58	Ashley, Walker Lee	LB	6-0	237	27	3	Penn State
21	Bess, Rufus	CB	5-9	189	31	8	S.C. State
62	Boyd, Brent	G	6-3	280	30	6	UCLA
23	Brown, Ted	RB	5-10	212	30	8	N.C. State
47	Browner, Joey	S	6-2	212	27	4	USC
81	Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	175	27	2	Michigan
8	Coleman, Greg	P	6-0	184	33	10	Florida A & M
56	Doleman, Chris	LB	6-5	250	26	2	Pittsburgh
26	Evans, David	CB	6-0	178	28	1	Central Ark
41	Guggemos, Neal	S	6-0	187	23	R	St. Thomas
80	Gustafson, Jim	WR	6-1	181	26	1	St. Thomas
44	Harris, John	S	6-2	198	31	9	Arizona State
82	Hilton, Carl	TE	6-3	232	23	R	Houston
30	Holt, Issiac	CB	6-1	200	25	2	Alcorn State
51	Hough, Jim	OL	6-2	269	31	9	Utah State
99	Howard, David	LB	6-2	232	26	2	Long Beach St.
72	Huffman, David	T	6-6	284	30	7	Notre Dame
76	Irwin, Tim	T	6-7	288	29	6	Tennessee
84	Jones, Hassan	WR	6-0	195	23	R	Florida State
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	239	26	5	Brown
9	Kramer, Tommy	QB	6-2	205	32	10	Rice
39	Lee, Carl	DB	5-11	187	26	4	Marshall
87	Lewis, Leo	WR	5-8	170	31	6	Missouri
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-3	269	24	2	Ohio State
27	Lush, Mike	S	6-2	195	29	1	E. Stroudsburg
71	MacDonald, Mark	G	6-4	267	26	2	Boston College
57	Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	239	27	4	Auburn
79	Martin, Doug	DE	6-3	264	30	7	Washington
75	Millard, Keith	DT	6-6	262	25	2	Washington St.
86	Mularkey, Mike	TE	6-4	234	26	4	Florida
77	Mullaney, Mark	DE	6-6	248	34	12	Colorado State
11	Nelson, Chuck	K	5-11	172	27	3	Washington
20	Nelson, Darrin	RB	5-9	189	28	5	Stanford
96	Newton, Tim	DT	6-0	287	24	2	Florida
91	Phillips, Joe	DT	6-4	278	24	R	SMU
88	Rhymes, Buster	WR	6-1	218	25	2	Oklahoma
36	Rice, Allen	RB	5-10	204	25	3	Baylor
95	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	256	24	R	Auburn
68	Rouse, Curtis	G	6-3	335	27	5	Chattanooga
78	Schippang, Gary	T	6-4	279	24	R	West Chester
53	Schuh, Jeff	LB	6-3	234	28	6	Minnesota
54	Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	235	24	R	Florida State
74	Stensrud, Mike	DT	6-5	280	31	8	Iowa State
55	Studwell, Scott	LB	6-2	230	33	10	Illinois
67	Swilley, Dennis	C	6-3	266	32	9	Texas A & M
66	Tausch, Terry	G	6-5	276	28	5	Texas
37	Teal, Willie	CB	5-10	192	30	7	LSU
85	White, Sammy	WR	5-11	198	33	11	Grambling
11	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	213	28	6	East Texas State
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	277	26	1	Oregon

DRAFTIES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Dozier, D.J.	RB	6-1	210	Penn State
2	Berry, Ray	LB	6-2	227	Baylor
3	Thomas, Henry	DL	6-2	263	LSU
4	Rutland, Reginald	DB	6-2	192	Georgia Tech
6	Richardson, Greg	WR	5-8	166	Alabama
8	Fenney, Rick	RB	6-1	245	Washington
9	Jones, Leonard	DB	6-1	187	Texas Tech
10	Riley, Bob	OT	6-5	276	Indiana
11	Pease, Brent	QB	6-2	201	Montana
12	Williams, Keith	DT	6-4	267	Florida

A potential starter in the secondary was drafted in the fourth round in Georgia Tech's Reggie Rutland, who could step right into the free-safety spot next to Pro Bowl strong safety Browner. An excellent special teams' contributor, Browner also led the club in tackles by a wide margin. Cornerbacks Issiac Holt and Carl Lee are backed up by David Evans, Willie Teal, and Rufus Bess. Holt's eight intercep-



ALFRED ANDERSON



DOUG MARTIN



CARL LEE

NFCentral DETROIT LIONS

The angry crowds in the Pontiac Silverdome don't sound like Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. But if coach Darryl Rogers can't sway the fans of the Detroit Lions, maybe No. 1 draft choice Reggie Rogers can. While the Lions were on their way to a 1-7 record inside their once-friendly dome, wide receiver Jeff Chadwick said: "When they made the movie *Ruthless People*, they should have filmed it in the Silverdome." If they were ruthless, it was because they were virtually winless. They are tired of waiting. When Rogers arrived in 1985, he took over a 4-11-1 team and went 7-9.

"I said the second year would be tougher, and it was," said Rogers after last year's Lions finished 5-11. "I said in the third year, we should start seeing more results." But Rogers is realistic. After the Lions collapsed in a 20-6 loss to the lowly Atlanta Falcons in the Silverdome in the season finale, he said: "If you look at the last game, you say you've got a long, long way to go. You look at the last game and it looks like you're 27,000 miles away."

How long can the fans wait? How long can owner William Clay Ford wait? How long can Chuck Long wait?

The Lions took six defensive players with their first six picks of the draft, indicating their intention to rebuild a defense that finished 26th against the run. If you can't stop the run, you can't play any kind of defense. If you can't play defense, it doesn't matter whether you can play offense.

Rogers kept last year's No. 1 draft choice, Long, on his bench nearly all of last year. While the fans yelled for the quarterback, Rogers held him back until December, when



ERIC HIPPLE

CHUCK LONG

LIONS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Murray, 85 points on 31 extra points and 18 field goals. .9th
RUSHING—Jones, 903 yards on 252 carries, 3.6 avg., 8 TDs. .7th
PASSING—Hipple, 192 of 305 attempts for 1,919 yards and 9 TDs. .3rd
RECEIVING—Jones, 54 receptions for 334 yards, 6.2 avg., 1 TD. .14th
INTERCEPTIONS—Mitchell, 5 for 41 yards, 8.2 avg. .17th
PUNTING—Black, 46 punts, 39.5 avg., longest 57 yards. .12th
PUNT RETURNS—Mandley, 43 for 420 yards, 9.8 avg., 1 TD. .3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hunter, 49 for 1,007 yards, 20.6 avg. .7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	15	INDIANAPOLIS (N)
	22	CINCINNATI (N)
	28	At Seattle (N)
September	3	At Philadelphia (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	At Minnesota	13-10
	20	At Los Angeles Raiders	
	27	CHICAGO	13-16
October	4	TAMPA BAY	20-24
	11	At Green Bay	21-14
	18	SEATTLE	
	25	GREEN BAY	40-44
November	1	At Denver	
	8	Dallas	7-31
	15	At Washington	
	22	At Chicago	7-13
	26	KANSAS CITY	
December	6	LOS ANGELES RAMS	10-14
	13	At Tampa Bay	38-17
	20	MINNESOTA	10-24
	27	At Atlanta	6-20



MIKE COFER



JAMES JONES

he made his debut against the world champion Chicago Bears on a Monday night. Long had the Lions ahead, 13-3, in the third quarter, a moment Rogers would later cite as the highlight of his season. "We were ahead, the crowd was a full house, and it came alive. It was the first time I've heard them like that since I've been here. For the first time, I heard what it's like if you win," Rogers said.

Long must now wake up the echoes. It's his ball game, unless Rogers reverts to Eric Hipple, who is coming off elbow surgery. Al-

though Long is a No. 1 draft choice, he has not had the chance to prove anything yet. Hipple already has proved he is a workmanlike quarterback who might benefit from a little defense as much as the next guy. Rogers also has not forgotten veteran Joe Ferguson. "We started getting Long ready in February. We're going to see how fast he can develop and where he's at by the time the season starts," Rogers said.

The quarterbacks also would benefit from a little help at wide receiver. Starters Chadwick

and Carl Bland aren't the kind who strike fear into defenses and both ended the season injured. Chadwick is coming back from an Achilles problem and Bland had a separated shoulder. Rogers is counting on another season from 35-year-old Leonard Thompson, who may be the most reliable man he has. Thompson didn't start last year, but performed well on special teams. Mark Nichols is coming off another injury that cost him all of 1986. Punt returner Pete Mandley might be called on more as a receiver. The acquisition last season of veteran tight end Jimmie Giles solidified a position that already has former No. 1 draft choice David Lewis, an underachiever, and the tenacious Rob Rubick.

The Lions figure that second-year running back Garry James will continue his improvement and finally give fullback James Jones much-needed help in the backfield. Jones led

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GARRY JAMES



DEVON MITCHELL



RICH STRENGER

the club in rushing, receiving, and touch-downs and was the most valuable offensive player for the third year in a row. James has the kind of outside speed that can nicely complement the big fullback. Rogers dreams that each back can rush for 1,000 and catch 50 passes. The backups are Herman Hunter, Scott Williams, Alvin Moore, and Oscar Smith.

The offensive line is outstanding on paper. When healthy, it has the potential to be one of the best in the league even though guards Keith Dorney and Harvey Salem are tackles in disguise. Left tackle Lomas Brown is on the verge of a Pro Bowl berth and right tackle Rich Strenger and center Steve Mott are steady veterans. Salem, who came from Houston during last season, will benefit from a training camp at his new position. Depth should be no problem if high draft choices Kevin Glover and Joe Milinichik escape injuries that hurt them last year. Scott Barrows is a versatile backup and nose tackle Steve Baack will shift to guard.

Reggie Rogers alone is expected to make the Lions' defense better under coordinator Wayne Fontes. But the Lions didn't stop at Rogers. The draft provided enough athletes to restructure the defense from top to bottom. Rogers is penciled in at right end on the three-man front, replacing veteran William Gay. Third-round pick Jerry Ball of SMU will push Eric Williams at nose tackle. At 6 feet, 296 pounds, Ball looks like his name. If Ball doesn't roll, seventh-rounder Dan Saleaumua might fill the gap. Saleaumua is a mere 6 feet, 285. Left end Keith Ferguson was the Lions' MVP on defense and their "one legitimate pass rusher," according to Rogers. With the new talent, Curtis Green and Gay will be fighting for playing time.

At linebacker, the return of injured strong-side backer Jimmy Williams will help the Lions stop the rush. He missed six weeks with a knee injury. On the right side, the Lions have Mike Cofer, a hustler who contributed 7½ sacks and earned Rogers' label of "by far our No. 1 effort football player. If you watch him play, you just can't get over how phenomenal his effort is. He chases, he runs, he jumps over people." Rogers is looking for more competition for the starting inside jobs and more depth outside. Inside, signal-caller James Harrell and Vernon Maxwell are going to be pushed by Shelton Robinson and draft choices Danny Lockett of Arizona and Dennis Gibson of Iowa State. Lockett also could provide outside depth along with Angelo King and George Jamison.

In the secondary, Rogers hopes for the recovery of left cornerback Bobby Watkins from an arch injury so that little Duane Galloway can move to nickel back. The right corner is Bruce McNorton and the backups will come from among John Bostic, Arnold Brown, Donnie Elder, and Rod Hill. Devon Mitchell was outstanding as a fourth-round rookie at free safety, so the Lions will not hesitate to let fourth-round draft choice Garland Rivers of Michigan earn the starting strong safety spot in place of Demetrius Johnson. William Graham and James Griffin provide depth.

Eddie Murray ranks third among all-time field-goal kickers with a percentage of .745. He has led the Lions in scoring for seven years. He is consistent home and away, on turf or grass. Jim Arnold is the punter. Herman Hunter set Lions' records for kickoff returns

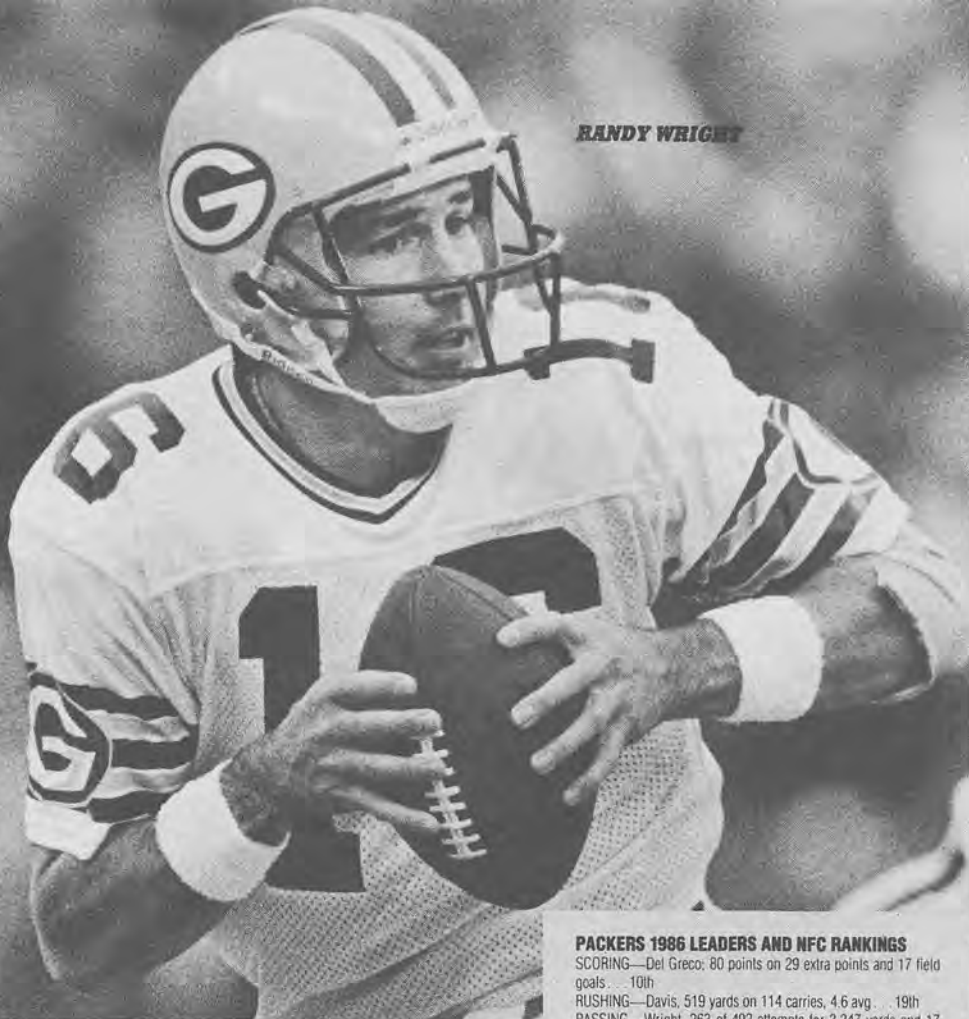
and yardage. Mandley finished fifth in the league in punt returns, but the Lions finished dead last in covering punts. Paul Butcher, the Lions' outstanding special teams' player, will try to do something about that.

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
6	Arnold, Jim	P	6-3	211	25	5	Vanderbilt
68	Baack, Steve	G	6-4	265	26	4	Oregon
61	Barrows, Scott	OL	6-2	278	23	2	West Virginia
80	Bland, Carl	WR	5-11	182	25	4	Virginia Union
42	Bostic, John	CB	5-10	178	24	3	Beth. Cookman
23	Brown, Arnold	CB	5-10	185	24	2	N.C. State
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	282	23	3	Florida
96	Butcher, Paul	ILB	6-0	223	23	2	Wayne State
89	Chadwick, Jeff	WR	6-3	190	26	5	Grand Valley St.
55	Coler, Mich.	OLB	6-5	245	26	5	Tennessee
43	Coleman, Eddie	WR	5-11	180	23	R	Bluffton
44	D'Addio, Dave	FB	6-2	229	25	2	Maryland
70	Dorney, Keith	OL	6-5	285	29	9	Penn. State
94	Drake, Joe	NT	6-3	285	24	2	Arizona
43	Elder, Donnie	CB	5-9	175	24	3	Memphis State
15	Exleben, Russell	P	6-5	230	30	5	Texas
66	Evans, Leon	DE	6-5	282	25	3	Miami
12	Ferguson, Joe	DB	6-1	195	36	15	Arkansas
77	Ferguson, Keith	DE	6-5	260	27	7	Ohio State
40	Galloway, Duane	DB	5-8	181	25	2	Arizona St.
99	Garbarcz, Tony	NT	6-3	275	23	1	Wake Forest
79	Gay, William	DE	6-5	260	31	10	Southern Cal
81	Giles, Jimmie	TE	6-3	240	32	11	Alcorn St.
53	Glover, Kevin	OL	6-2	267	23	3	Maryland
33	Graham, William	S	5-11	191	27	6	Texas
62	Green, Curtis	DL	6-2	265	29	7	Alabama State
34	Griffin, James	S	6-2	197	25	5	Mid. Tenn. St.
90	Grymes, Darrell	WR	6-2	186	25	1	Central State
58	Harrell, James	ILB	6-1	245	29	8	Florida
47	Hill, Rod	CB	6-0	188	27	5	Kentucky St.
17	Hipple, Eric	QB	6-2	198	29	8	Utah State
98	Hughes, Allen	DE	6-3	254	27	1	West. Michigan
36	Hunter, Herman	RB	6-1	193	26	3	Tennessee St.
1	Jacobs, Dave	K	5-7	150	29	3	Syracuse
32	James, Garry	RB	5-10	214	23	2	LSU
95	Jamison, George	OLB	6-1	226	24	1	Cincinnati
21	Johnson, Demetrius	S	5-11	190	25	5	Missouri
54	Johnson, James	OLB	6-2	236	24	2	San Diego State
30	Jones, James	FB	6-2	229	25	5	Florida
63	Kenney, Steve	G	6-4	262	31	8	Clemson
92	King, Angelo	OLB	6-1	222	29	7	S.C. State
26	Ledbetter, Weldon	RB	6-0	223	27	1	Oklahoma
87	Lewis, David	TE	6-3	235	25	4	California
65	Little, Steve	NT	6-3	265	25	1	Iowa State
16	Long, Chuck	QB	6-4	211	24	2	Iowa
82	Mandley, Pete	WR	5-10	191	25	4	Northern Arizona
60	Mallice, Frank	NT	6-1	270	26	1	Holy Cross
57	Maxwell, Vernon	ILB	6-2	235	25	4	Arizona State
29	McNorton, Bruce	CB	5-11	175	28	6	Georgetown
74	Milichich, Joe	OL	6-5	300	23	1	N.C. State
92	Miller, Clay	OL	6-4	277	23	2	Michigan
31	Mitchell, Devon	S	6-1	194	24	2	Iowa
24	Moore, Alvin	RB	6-0	194	27	5	Arizona State
52	Mott, Steve	C	6-3	270	25	5	Alabama
3	Murray, Eddie	K	5-10	175	30	8	Tulane
86	Nichols, Mark	WR	6-2	208	27	6	San Jose State
48	Pearson, Bret	TE	6-4	240	25	1	Wisconsin
51	Robinson, Shelton	ILB	6-2	236	25	6	North Carolina
84	Rubick, Rob	TE	6-3	234	26	6	Grand Valley St.
73	Salem, Harvey	OL	6-6	285	26	5	California
64	Sanders, Eric	OL	6-7	280	28	7	Nevada-Reno
53	Sebring, Bob	ILB	6-2	238	24	1	Illinois
25	Smith, Oscar	RB	5-9	203	23	1	Nicholls State
41	Smith, Ricky	CB	6-0	188	26	4	Alabama State
26	Smith, Steve	S	6-0	200	25	1	Michigan
69	Snyder, Don	T	6-5	290	24	1	Tennessee Tech
71	Strenger, Rich	T	6-7	285	27	4	Michigan
39	Thompson, Leonard	WR	5-11	192	34	13	Oklahoma State
49	Truvillion, Eric	WR	6-4	205	28	1	Florida A & M
27	Watkins, Bobby	CB	5-10	184	26	6	SW Texas State
76	Williams, Eric	NT	6-4	280	25	4	Washington St.
59	Williams, Jimmy	DLB	6-3	230	26	6	Nebraska
38	Williams, Scott	FB	6-2	234	24	2	Georgia

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Rogers, Reggie	DE	6-7	255	Washington
3	Ball, Jerry	DT	6-0	281	SMU
4	Rivers, Garland	DB	6-1	190	Michigan
6	Lockett, Danny	LB	6-3	226	Arizona
7	Saleaumua, Dan	DT	6-0	285	Arizona State
8	Gibson, Dennis	LB	6-2	240	Iowa State
9	Calhoun, Rick	RB	5-7	185	Fullerton St.
10	Brown, Raynard	WR	5-9	185	South Carolina
11	Siverting, Brian	TE	6-7	253	Penn. State
12	Lee, Gary	WR	6-1	202	Georgia Tech



RANDY WRIGHT

GREEN BAY PACKERS

After three seasons of 8-8 stalemates, two under coach Forrest Gregg, the Packers slumped to 4-12. "The people that we had were not good enough to win," Gregg said. "We paid a dear price, but I am totally convinced that what I did was right. I think this team can be a great deal better."

It better be better, because the good citizens of Green Bay are outraged. It's not so much the losing as an embarrassing series of sexual charges against several players starting in 1984 that has overshadowed everything else the team does.

The Packers continued the rebuilding in the offseason with the hiring of a new director of football operations, Tom Braatz, a Wisconsin native and former Atlanta Falcons' personnel chief. They traded all-time leading wide receiver James Lofton to the Los Angeles Raiders and they initiated a new era by making Auburn running back Brent Fullwood their No. 1 draft pick. Fullwood was overshadowed by Bo Jackson during his career and overlooked by casual fans, but not by scouts who labeled him the premier runner in college football. The 5-11, 209-pounder was a unanimous All-America and will give the Packers' running attack instant respect.

At quarterback, the Packers are convinced that Randy Wright is their man. It took the whole season for Wright to convince his teammates that he could replace Lynn Dickey. By the end of it, he compiled the club's third-highest single-season totals ever for completions and passing yardage. "Randy may be, overall, the most improved player on our team. He has answered a lot of questions for

PACKERS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Del Greco: 80 points on 29 extra points and 17 field goals... 10th
 RUSHING—Davis, 519 yards on 114 carries, 4.6 avg... 19th
 PASSING—Wright, 263 of 492 attempts for 3,247 yards and 17 TDs... 10th
 RECEIVING—Lofton, 64 receptions for 840 yards, 13.1 avg., 4 TDs... 8th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Lee, 9 for 33 yards, 3.7 avg... 3rd
 PUNTING—Bracken, 55 punts, 40.1 avg., longest 63 yards... 11th
 PUNT RETURNS—Stanley, 33 for 316 yards, 9.6 avg., 1 TD... 5th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Stanley, 28 for 559 yards, 20.0 avg... 9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 Denver (at Tempe, AZ, N)
 22 WASHINGTON at Madison
 29 CINCINNATI (N)
 September 5 CLEVELAND (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

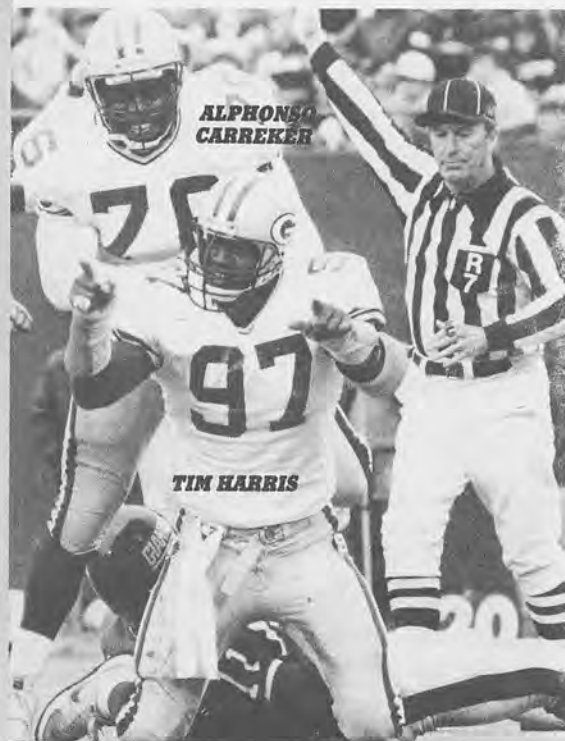
		1986 SCORES
September	13 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	.....
	20 DENVER at Milwaukee	.....
	27 At Tampa Bay	21-7
October	4 At Minnesota	7-42
	11 DETROIT	14-21
	18 PHILADELPHIA	.....
	25 At Detroit	44-40
November	1 TAMPA BAY at Milwaukee	31-7
	8 CHICAGO	12-25
	15 At Seattle	.....
	22 At Kansas City	.....
	29 At Chicago	10-12
December	6 SAN FRANCISCO	17-31
	13 MINNESOTA at Milwaukee	6-32
	19 At New York Giants	24-55
	27 At New Orleans	10-24

us and for his critics," Gregg said. Wright's strong arm and instinct to avoid the rush, plus his intelligence and leadership, had some Green Bay observers recalling a young Bart Starr. Even so, the Packers have last year's third-round draft choice, Robbie Bosco, waiting in the wings. Bosco underwent corrective surgery on his right shoulder last October and should be ready to compete for a job in training camp. "If he hadn't had that shoulder problem, he probably would have gone in the first round," Braatz said.

Without Lofton, the Packers still feel comfortable with their receivers as long as Phillip Epps and Walter Stanley are around. Epps has world-class speed; when he broke an ankle last year, Stanley emerged as a dangerous threat. Against Detroit on Thanksgiving, he burst upon the national scene with a three-touchdown, 287-yard performance that included an 83-yard punt return for the winning score. Former running back Eddie Lee Ivey proved to be reliable as the third wide receiver. Third-round draft choice Frankie Neal is an intriguing prospect from Ft. Hays State who began his career at Florida. The tight-end situation is in good hands with former Bengal and USFL player Dan Ross starting and veteran Ed West providing the blocking. Mark Lewis is a talented third-year prospect.

At running back, Fullwood is expected to team with second-year fullback Paul Ott Caruth, with several veterans pushing for backup spots. Gary Ellerson and Kenneth Davis will line up behind Fullwood; Gerry Ellis and Jessie Clark also will vie for playing time. Ellerson and Davis showed flashes of outstanding form at halfback last year, but neither is expected to withstand the challenge of Fullwood.

Gregg is proud of his offensive line, citing its youth and experience. Tackles Ken Ruettgers and Alan Veingrad, guards Tom Neville and Ron Hallstrom, and center Karl Swanke helped the Packers move the ball



ALPHONSO CARREKER

TIM HARRIS

against the Giants in the season finale. Keith Uecker, Rich Moran, and Mark Cannon—all starters from 1985—will be back to challenge for jobs. Third-round draft choice Dave Croston of Iowa was projected as a possible first-rounder by some scouts. He will join Greg Feasel and Dan Knight in the scramble for a backup tackle job. Swanke, a former tackle, surprised everyone with his ability to play center, filling in for the injured Cannon. "I can't think of any better condition to have an offensive line in," Gregg said.

On defense, Gregg can think of a lot better conditions. The Packer pass rush dropped by 20 sacks last year to only 28 and the defense against the run also dropped off from 16th to 21st. Help will be welcomed in the front seven and Gregg hopes he got some in his second- and third-round draft choices: linebackers Johnny Holland of Texas A&M and Scott Stephen of Arizona State.

Of the paltry 28 sacks, the defensive line had only 10½. Lack of pressure up front was primarily responsible for the Packers giving up 31 touchdown passes, more than any other team except the Jets. "I think there will be some questions as to who the starters will be," Gregg said. Nose tackle Charles Martin played well, according to Gregg, but he gained more notoriety for slamming Bears' quarterback Jim McMahon to the ground and earning a two-game suspension. Ends Alphonso Carreker and Robert Brown are average players who rarely threaten passers without help from a four-man rush. Ben Thomas is a backup inside and outside. Ezra Johnson is a veteran pass rusher.

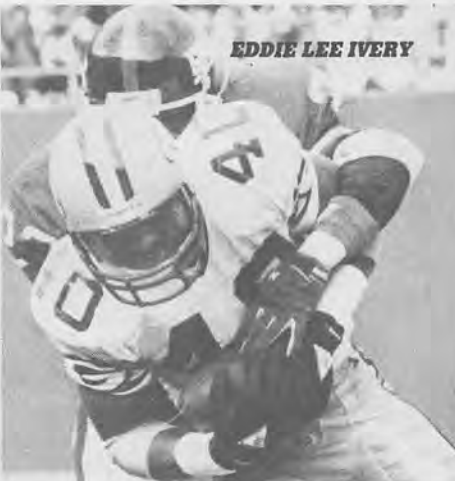
Linebacker Tim Harris played his best ball when rushing the passer in a four-man front. "He was the best of all our people at pressuring the quarterback," Gregg said. The 6-6, 243-pound Harris is the prototype of the linebacker-pass rusher that every team is coveting these days. The addition of the 6-2, 221-pound Holland and the 6-2, 232-pound Stephen will give the Packers more size and potential at linebacker than they have enjoyed in years. Veteran John Anderson will return from a broken ankle to join Harris and inside starters Brian Noble (6-3, 250) and Randy Scott, with Bobby Leopold also competing for a backup job. Noble led the club in tackles despite having to play out of position at outside linebacker on occasion.

The secondary is the most solid area of the defense despite losing cornerback Tim Lewis early in the season with a neck injury. Starters Mark Lee and Mossy Cade at cornerback and Ken Stills and Tiger Greene at safety will return intact, backed up by John Simmons, Ed Berry, David Greenwood, Elbert Watts, and Mark Murphy. "Mark Lee had a great year, and I really felt that would be a Pro Bowl performance for him," Gregg said. "Every week, if you asked me who played well enough to win, it was Mark Lee." Stills harnessed his enthusiasm and became an effective and inspirational team leader at free safety. Greene

moved in at strong safety after joining the club as a free agent.

The Packers permitted five punts to be blocked, far and away the worst record in the league. Mississippi's Bill Smith (44-yard average) was drafted in the seventh round last spring to correct the problem. Al Del Greco had what Gregg described as a "solid" year as place-kicker. Stanley did an exceptional job of returning both punts and kickoffs. His duties might be limited this year because of his responsibility at wide receiver. Kickoff and punt coverage both were among conference leaders, reflecting the enthusiasm of a young team.

"I feel good about this team," Gregg said. "I feel good about the attitude as much as anything else. I think we have some people that



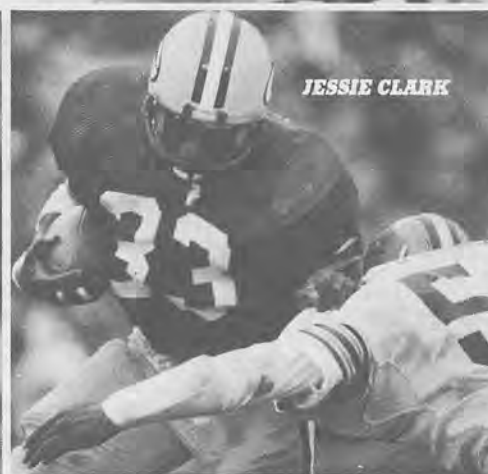
EDDIE LEE IVERY



KENNETH DAVIS



WALTER STANLEY



JESSIE CLARK

care whether you win or lose." Gregg is convinced the Packers are good enough to compete for the NFC Central title. "I don't think there's any question that we can. We proved last year that we could play with anybody. We played the Bears very close. The Bears are going to be the team to beat."

PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	NFL college
59	Anderson, John	LB	6-3	228	31	10	Michigan
20	Berry, Ed	DB	5-10	183	24	2	Utah St.
11	Bosco, Robbie	QB	6-2	198	24	1	BYU
61	Boyersky, Jerry	NT	6-3	290	28	7	Pitt.
17	Bracken, Don	P	6-0	211	25	3	Michigan
93	Brown, Robert	DE	6-2	267	27	6	Va. Tech
51	Byrd, Sylvester	TE/LB	6-2	240	24	1	Kansas
24	Cade, Mossy	CB	6-1	198	26	3	Texas
58	Cannon, Mark	C	6-3	258	25	4	Texas-Arlington
64	Carr, Carl	LB	6-4	232	23	1	No. Carolina
76	Carreker, Alphonso	DE	6-6	271	25	4	Florida St.
30	Carroll, Paul Ott	RB	6-1	220	26	2	Alabama
68	Carter, Thomas	LB	6-2	240	26	1	San Diego St.
69	Cherry, Bill	OL	6-4	277	26	2	Mid. Tenn. St.
33	Clark, Jessie	FB	6-0	228	27	5	Arkansas
36	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	209	25	2	TCU
10	Del Greco, Al	K	5-10	191	25	4	Auburn
56	Dent, Burnell	LB	6-1	236	24	2	Tulane
99	Dorsey, John	LB	6-2	243	27	4	Connecticut
42	Ellerson, Gary	RB	5-11	219	24	3	Wisconsin
31	Ellis, Gerry	FB	5-11	235	30	8	Missouri
85	Epps, Phillip	WR	5-10	165	28	6	TCU
77	Faessler, Greg	T	6-7	301	29	2	Ahlone Christian
84	Fitzgerald, Patrick	WR	6-3	197	24	1	Boise St.
4	Fusina, Chuck	QB	6-1	195	30	5	Penn. State
63	Garrett, Curtis	DL	6-6	270	25	1	Illinois St.
23	Greene, George	DB	6-0	194	25	3	Western Carolina
49	Greenwood, David	SS	6-3	210	27	3	Wisconsin
65	Hallstrom, Ron	G	6-6	290	28	6	Iowa
97	Harris, Tim	LB	6-5	235	23	2	Memphis St.
79	Humphrey, Donnie	DE	6-3	295	26	4	Auburn
40	Ivery, Eddie Lee	HB	6-0	206	30	7	Georgia Tech
90	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	264	32	11	Morris Brown
41	Johnson, Kenneth	CB	6-0	185	24	1	Miss. St.
62	Kaplan, Ken	OT	6-4	275	27	5	New Hampshire
74	Knight, Dan	T	6-5	280	24	1	San Diego St.
22	Lee, Mark	DB	5-11	189	29	8	Washington
53	Leopold, Bobby	LB	6-1	224	30	6	Notre Dame
89	Lewis, Mark	TE	6-2	237	26	2	Texas A&M
94	Martin, Charles	DE	6-4	280	28	4	Livingston
82	Moffitt, Mike	TE	6-4	211	24	2	Fresno State
98	Moore, Brent	LB	6-5	242	24	1	USC
57	Moran, Rich	OL	6-2	275	25	3	San Diego St.
37	Murphy, Mark	SS	6-2	201	29	6	West Liberty
72	Neville, Tom	OL	6-5	306	26	2	Fresno State
91	Noble, Brian	LB	6-3	252	25	3	Arizona State
39	Parker, Freddie	RB	5-10	215	25	1	Miss. Valley
13	Renner, Bill	P	6-0	198	28	2	Va. Tech
81	Ross, Dan	TE	6-4	240	30	8	Northeastern
75	Ruettgers, Ken	T	6-5	280	25	3	USC
55	Scott, Randy	LB	6-1	228	28	7	Alabama
18	Shield, Joe	QB	6-1	185	25	2	Trinity
32	Simmons, John	CB	5-11	192	29	7	SMU
43	Sowell, Robert	DB	5-10	185	26	4	Howard
87	Stanley, Walter	WR	5-9	179	25	3	Mesa
29	Stills, Ken	DB	5-10	186	24	3	Wisconsin
67	Swanke, Karl	OL	6-6	262	30	8	Wisconsin College
92	Thomas, Ben	OL	6-4	275	26	3	Auburn
45	Thomas, Lavale	RB	6-0	205	24	1	Fresno St.
70	Uecker, Keith	OL	6-5	284	27	5	Auburn
73	Veingrad, Alan	OL	6-5	277	24	2	East Texas St.
28	Watts, Elbert	CB	6-1	205	24	2	USC
52	Weddington, Mike	LB	6-4	245	27	2	Oklahoma
86	West, Ed	TE	6-1	243	26	4	Auburn
16	Wright, Randy	QB	6-2	203	26	4	Wisconsin

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Fullwood, Brent	RB	5-11	209	Auburn
2	Holland, Johnny	LB	6-2	221	Texas A & M
3	Croston, David	OT	6-5	280	Iowa
3	Stephen, Scott	LB	6-2	232	Arizona State
4	Neal, Frankie	WR	6-1	202	Fl. Hays State
4	Freeman, Lorenzo	DT	6-5	280	Pittsburgh
6	Marshall, Willie	WR	6-1	190	Temple
7	Leiker, Tony	DT	6-5	258	Stanford
7	Smith, Bill	P	6-3	222	Mississippi
8	Drost, Jeff	DT	6-5	286	Iowa
9	Harris, Greg	OG	6-4	283	Wake Forest
10	Majkowski, Don	QB	6-2	197	Virginia
11	Scott, Patrick	WR	6-0	182	Grambling
12	Jefferson, Norman	DB	5-10	183	LSU

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Losing apparently pays so well in Tampa Bay that the Buccaneers should really be nicknamed the Bucks. To cure what ails the worst team in the league, Tampa Bay owner Hugh Culverhouse went straight to his checkbook and signed coach Ray Perkins for \$1 million a year. Then he paid quarterback Vinny Testaverde more than that before the youngster threw his first pass or threatened to follow last year's No. 1 draft choice, Bo Jackson, to baseball. Coaches and players everywhere are secretly rooting for Perkins and Testaverde to turn the 2-14 Bucs around. If they can do it, owners everywhere will follow Culverhouse's lead and reach for their wallets.

Perkins has more than a poor team to turn around. He is faced with fan apathy that was reflected in a newspaper poll seeking a replacement for the fired Leeman Bennett. Perkins was the fourth choice with six votes, fewer than Bennett himself.

Testaverde is likely to sell enough tickets to justify his paycheck. According to Perkins and others who have scouted the Heisman Trophy winner from Miami, Testaverde will do more than sell tickets. "I haven't seen the total qualities he brings to the quarterback position in a player coming out in at least 15 years. He should be a great quarterback and I don't use the word 'great' too many times," Perkins said. Among those qualities, Testaverde better have a healthy sense of how to handle pressure. The last 15 years covers a lot of territory. The year of 1983 takes in John Elway and Dan Marino. Testaverde's promise alone was enough for the Bucs to dump incumbent Steve Young to the San Francisco 49ers for second- and fourth-round draft choices and \$1 million cash, which conveniently covered Testaverde's reporting bonus. Young wasn't a bad quarterback, according to many of the coaches and players who faced him. He was just mired in a bad situation. Behind Testaverde, the Bucs still have former starter Steve DeBerg, who has paved the way for stars everywhere he has been. DeBerg is a good man to have around.

For Testaverde to extricate the Bucs, he will need more than money. That's why the Bucs drafted a 12-round record 20 players, practically an entire team. After watching a lowlight film, they had to figure any 20 players would be better than 20 on the Buc roster. Don't be surprised if 15 or so stick.

"We drafted for every area on the team," Perkins said. "We have an awful lot of work to do. I'm not a miracle worker. I don't want the fans of Tampa to think I am. I do believe very strongly that we will win. When, I don't know."

In all the excitement of draft day, the Bucs hope they have hired enough people to catch the passes Testaverde is expected to throw. They dumped tight end Jimmie Giles and wide receiver Kevin House during last season and both caught on with other teams. Calvin Magee emerged as a more than adequate replacement for Giles, and Jerry Bell and K.D. Dunn give the Bucs depth at tight end. They also added Ron Hall of Hawaii in the fourth round because they thought he was clearly the highest-rated athlete at the time.

Wide receiver is another story. Gerald Carter caught over 40 passes for the fourth year, but he is a possession-type receiver. Phil Freeman caught 14 passes. David Williams was a Bear castoff who still has possibilities.

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL



VINNY TESTAVERDE

BUCCANEERS 1986 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Igwebuike, 77 points on 26 extra points and 17 field goals . . . 11th
RUSHING—Wilder, 704 yards on 190 carries, 3.7 avg., 2 TDs . . . 13th
PASSING—Young, 195 of 363 attempts for 2,282 yards and 8 TDs . . . 12th
RECEIVING—Magee, 45 receptions for 564 yards, 12.5 avg., 5 TDs . . . 21st
INTERCEPTIONS—McKeever, 3 for 12 yards, 4.0 avg. . . 39th
PUNTING—Garcia, 77 punts, 40.1 avg., longest 60 yards . . . 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Futrell, 14 for 67 yards, 4.8 avg. . . unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Freeman, 31 for 582 yards, 18.8 avg. . . 13th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	15	CINCINNATI (N)
	22	N.Y. JETS (N)
	29	WASHINGTON (N)
September	5	At Indianapolis

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	ATLANTA	1986 SCORES	(OT) 20-23
	20	At Chicago		14-48
	27	GREEN BAY		7-21
October	4	At Detroit		24-20
	11	SAN DIEGO		—
	18	At Minnesota		13-45
	25	CHICAGO		3-23
November	1	vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee		7-31
	8	At St. Louis		17-21
	15	MINNESOTA		10-23
	22	SAN FRANCISCO		7-31
December	29	At Los Angeles Rams		(OT) 20-26
	6	At New Orleans		7-38
	13	DETROIT		17-38
	20	ST. LOUIS		19-30
	27	At Indianapolis		—

The hope is that two draft choices, third-rounder Mark Carrier of Nicholls State and fourth-rounder Bruce Hill of Arizona State, will quickly emerge as answers.

Running back James Wilder led the club in rushing for the fifth year in a row, but the 6-3, 225-pounder missed some time for the first year since 1983 with rib and ankle injuries. Being human, he needs help. The Bucs hope they found it in one of their three second-rounders, Mississippi State quarterback Don Smith, a great runner who wanted to be tried at quarterback and could back up Testaverde. In the ninth round, they took a workhorse runner in Wisconsin's Joe Armentrout.

The Bucs drafted only one offensive lineman, 10th-rounder Mike Simmonds of Indiana State, so they must be satisfied with the protection they will give their new quarterback. Going into training camp, the depth chart will have Rob Taylor and Ron Heller at the tackles, Rick Mallory and George Yarno at the guards, and Randy Grimes at center. Regular guard Sean Farrell couldn't wait for Testaverde and was traded to New England. Huge J.D. Maarleveld could challenge for a tackle spot and

new acquisitions Greg Robinson and Conrad Goode could figure.

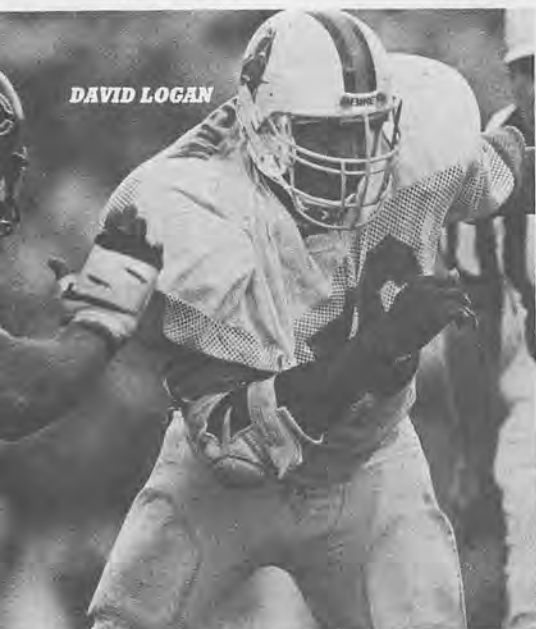
With only 19 sacks last year, the big problem with the Bucs was defense. Lawrence Taylor had 20½ sacks in New York all by himself. Somehow, the Bucs have to invent a pass rush before Testaverde has a chance to compete. It could start with 1985 No. 1 draft choice Ron Holmes, whose development at right end as Lee Roy Selmon's replacement has been hindered by injuries. Left end John Cannon missed seven games last year with a leg fracture. Nose tackle David Logan has not missed a start since 1980. Backups Kevin Kellin, Bob Nelson, and Tyrone Keys need to push harder.

Improvement on defense is going to have to come mainly from the linebackers. The Bucs have high draft choices playing the position in Jackie Walker, Kevin Murphy, and Ervin Randle. This year, they added Miami's Winston Moss, Penn State's Don Graham, and Nevada-Reno's Henry Rolling in rounds two, four, and five. Jeff Davis and Scot Brantley have been the starting inside linebackers for four years. Chris Washington is the starter on the right outside. They will all have to get better to stay there. "We have some players with good athletic ability," Perkins said. "They will become more productive."

The Bucs lined up with two rookies in their secondary last year and might end up with two more this year. Cornerback Rod Jones and strong safety Craig Swoope won starting spots. Former USFL corner Vito McKeever played the final eight games and led the team with three interceptions. Veteran Jeremiah Castille will try to regain his corner job, but second-round draft choice Ricky Reynolds of

Washington State is expected to earn a job at either corner or safety. Fifth-rounder Tony Mayes will vie with Kevin Walker and Craig Curry for reserve duty.

Place-kicker Donald Igwebuike has not missed a field goal shorter than 35 yards in two years. However, the Bucs don't get that close often enough for Igwebuike to make a big difference in the won-lost record. Punter Frank Garcia is good at placing kicks inside the 20. With all those rookies on the roster, the Bucs are bound to improve their kick coverage and returns. They were 26th in covering kickoffs and 25th in covering punts, a sad indication of a lack of enthusiasm that Perkins hopes he can correct.



DAVID LOGAN



PHIL FREEMAN



JAMES WILDER

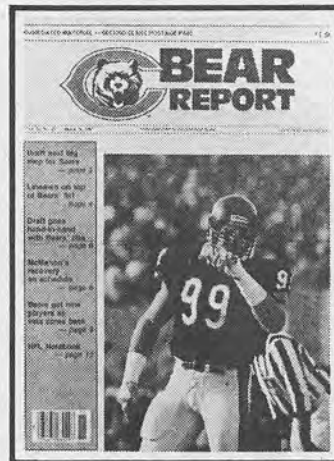
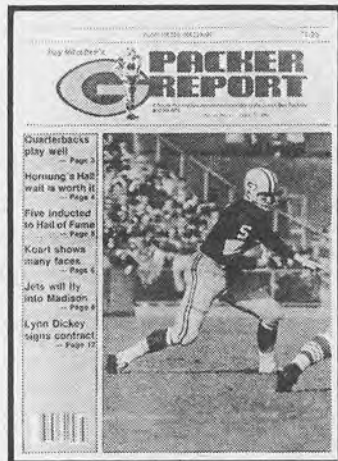
BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	exp.	NFL	college
44	Anderson, Dwayne	DB	6-0	205	25	1		SMU
6	Barnhardt, Tommy	P	6-3	205	23	1		North Carolina
38	Bligon, Dennis	RB	5-11	215	25	4		St. John's
34	Boatner, Mack	RB	6-0	220	28	2		SE Louisiana
52	Brantley, Scot	LB	6-1	230	29	8		Florida
78	Cannon, John	DE	6-5	260	26	6		William & Mary
9	Carter, Stephen	WR	5-10	170	24	1		Albany State
23	Castille, Jeremiah	DB	5-10	175	26	5		Alabama
31	Curry, Craig	DB	6-0	190	25	4		Texas
58	Davis, Jeff	LB	6-0	230	27	6		Clemson
17	DeBerg, Steve	QB	6-3	210	33	11		San Jose State
26	Easmon, Ricky	DB	5-10	160	23	3		Florida
61	Fonoti, David	OT	6-4	280	23	1		Arizona State
35	Franklin, Pat	RB	6-1	230	23	2		SW Texas State
36	Futrell, Bobby	DB	5-11	190	24	2		Eliz. City St.
5	Garcia, Frank	P	6-0	210	29	5		Arizona
4	Gonzalez, Leon	WR	5-11	165	23	2		Beth Cookman
60	Grimes, Randy	C	6-4	270	26	5		Baylor
73	Heller, Ron	OT	6-6	280	24	4		Penn State
25	Howard, Bobby	RB	6-0	210	22	2		Indiana
24	Hunt, Gary	DB	5-11	180	23	1		Memphis State
1	Igwebuike, Donald	PK	5-9	185	26	3		Clemson
22	Jones, Rod	DB	6-0	175	22	2		SMU
75	Kellin, Kevin	DE	6-6	265	27	2		Minnesota
76	Logan, David	NT	6-2	250	30	9		Pittsburgh
77	Maarleveld, J.D.	OT	6-6	300	25	2		Maryland
68	Mallory, Rick	G	6-2	265	26	3		Washington
55	McCallister, Fred	LB	6-1	250	25	1		Florida
21	McKeever, Vito	DB	6-0	180	25	2		Florida
59	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6-2	230	23	2		Oklahoma
71	Nelson, Bob	NT	6-3	265	28	2		Miami
7	Nelson, Jeff	WR	5-9	170	22	1		Texas A & M
74	Powell, Marvin	OT	6-5	270	31	11		Southern Cal
54	Randle, Ervin	LB	6-1	250	24	3		Baylor
64	Robinson, Greg	OT	6-5	285	24	2		Sacramento St.
19	Scott, Ed	WR	6-0	190	24	1		Idaho State
41	Swoope, Craig	DB	6-1	200	23	2		Illinois
72	Taylor, Rob	OT	6-6	290	26	2		Northwestern
20	Turner, Craig	RB	5-11	220	24	1		Alabama
56	Walker, Jackie	LB	6-5	245	24	2		Jackson State
37	Walker, Kevin	DB	5-11	180	23	2		East Carolina
27	Walker, Quentin	RB	6-0	205	25	2		Virginia
10	Walls, Herkie	WR	5-8	160	25	4		Texas
51	Washington, Chris	LB	6-4	230	25	4		Iowa State
32	Wilder, James	RB	6-3	225	28	7		Missouri
80	Williams, David	WR	6-3	190	23	2		Illinois
46	Wonsley, Nathan	RB	5-10	190	23	2		Mississippi
66	Yarno, George	OG	6-2	265	29	8		Washington St.

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	218	Miami
2	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	6-0	181	Washington St.
2	Moss, Winston	LB	6-3	240	Miami
2	Smith, Don	QB/RB	6-0	195	Mississippi St.
3	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	181	Nicholls State
4	Graham, Don	LB	6-2	244	Penn State
4	Hall, Ron	TE	6-4	238	Hawaii
4	Hill, Bruce	WR	6-0	175	Arizona State
5	Rolling, Henry	LB	6-2	220	Nevada-Reno
5	Mayes, Tony	DB	6-0	200	Kentucky
6	Bartalo, Steve	RB	5-9	200	Colorado State
7	Jarvis, Curt	NT	6-2	266	Alabama
7	Swayne, Harry	DL	6-5	268	Rutgers
8	Mataele, Stan	NT	6-2	277	Arizona
9	Armentrout, Joe	RB	6-0	230	Wisconsin
9	Davis, Greg	RB	5-11	190	Citadel
10	Simmonds, Mike	OG	6-4	281	Indiana State
11	Taylor, Reggie	RB	5-5	170	Cincinnati
12	Cooper, Scott	DT	6-5	275	Kearney State
12	Shula, Mike	QB	6-2	200	Alabama

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OFFER EXPIRES 10/31/87

P87-2

PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

1986 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Opp
N.Y. Giants	14	2	0	.875	371	236
Washington	12	4	0	.750	368	296
Dallas	7	9	0	.438	346	337
Philadelphia	5	10	1	.344	256	312
St. Louis	4	11	1	.281	218	351

Central Division

Chicago	14	2	0	.875	352	187
Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	398	273
Detroit	5	11	0	.313	277	326
Green Bay	4	12	0	.250	254	418
Tampa Bay	2	14	0	.125	239	473

Western Division

San Francisco	10	5	1	.656	374	247
L.A. Rams	10	6	0	.625	309	267
Atlanta	7	8	1	.469	280	280
New Orleans	7	9	0	.438	288	287

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Western Division	W	L	T	Pct	Pts	Opp
Denver	11	5	0	.688	378	327
Kansas City	10	6	0	.625	358	326
Seattle	10	6	0	.625	366	293
L.A. Raiders	8	8	0	.500	323	346
San Diego	4	12	0	.250	335	396

Central Division

Cleveland	12	4	0	.750	391	310
Cincinnati	10	6	0	.625	409	394
Pittsburgh	6	10	0	.375	307	336
Houston	5	11	0	.313	274	329

Eastern Division

New England	11	5	0	.688	412	307
N.Y. Jets	10	6	0	.625	364	386
Miami	8	8	0	.500	430	405
Buffalo	4	12	0	.250	287	348
Indianapolis	3	13	0	.188	229	400

WILD CARD GAMES

N.Y. Jets 35, Kansas City 15
Washington 19, L.A. Rams 7

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Cleveland 23, N.Y. Jets 20 (2 OT)
Denver 22, New England 17
N.Y. Giants 49, San Francisco 3
Washington 27, Chicago 13

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Denver 23, Cleveland 20 (OT)
N.Y. Giants 17, Washington 0

SUPER BOWL XXI

N.Y. Giants 39, Denver 20

AFC WILD CARD GAME

Kansas City	6	0	0	9 — 15
N.Y. Jets	7	14	7	7 — 35

First Period

Kansas City: Smith 1 run (kick failed), 6:59
N.Y. Jets: McNeil 4 run (Leahy kick), 14:14

Second Period

N.Y. Jets: McNeil 1 pass from Ryan (Leahy kick), 5:48
N.Y. Jets: Toon 11 pass from Ryan (Leahy kick), 14:01

Third Period

N.Y. Jets: McArthur 21 interception return (Leahy kick), 0:13

Fourth Period

Kansas City: Lewis blocked punt recovery in end zone (Lowery kick), 0:14
N.Y. Jets: Griggs 6 pass from Ryan (Leahy kick), 4:11

Kansas City: Safety, Jennings runs out of end zone, 12:01

Attendance: 69,307

Team Statistics

	Chiefs	Jets
First downs	15	19
Rushing	4	9
Passing	8	10
Penalty	3	0
Third down efficiency	6-14	6-12
Fourth down efficiency	1-4	1-1
Net yards	241	306
Plays	59	61
Average gain	4.1	5.2
Net yards rushing	67	165
Rushes	20	36
Average per rush	3.4	4.6
Net yards passing	174	141
Completed-attempted	20-37	16-23
Yards per pass play	4.5	5.6
Sacked-yards lost	2-3	2-12
Had intercepted	2	0
Punts-average	3-41	4-29
Total return yardage	90	64
Punts-returns	3-5	1-4
Kickoffs-returns	5-85	3-27
Interceptions	0-0	2-33
Penalties-yards	1-5	8-54
Fumbles-lost	2-1	1-0
Time of possession	28:53	31:07

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Kansas City, Blackledge 4-33, Green 8-15, Smith 4-12, Moriarty 2-7, Heard 1-1, S. Paige 1-(-1). New York, McNeil 31-135, Ryan 2-30, T. Paige 2-3, Jennings 1-(-3).

Passing: Kansas City, Blackledge 12-21-2-80, Kenney 8-16-0-97. New York, Ryan 16-23-0-153.

Receiving: Kansas City, Marshall 6-72, Green 5-7, Coffman 3-12, Carson 2-43, Smith 2-1, Moriarty 1-16, Heard 1-15. New York, Toon 4-48, Shuler 4-28, McNeil 3-16, Walker 2-45, Sohn 1-11, Griggs 1-6, Alexander 1-(-1).

Interceptions: New York, Carter, McArthur.
Missed Field Goals: None.

NFC WILD CARD GAME

L.A. Rams	0	0	0	7 — 7
Washington	10	3	3	3 — 19

First Period

Washington: FG Atkinson 25, 6:01
Washington: Bryant 14 pass from Schroeder (Atkinson kick), 12:34

Second Period

Washington: FG Atkinson 20, 13:55

Third Period

Washington: FG Atkinson 38, 12:03

Fourth Period

Los Angeles: House 12 pass from Everett (Lansford kick) 0:09

Washington: FG Atkinson 19, 14:00

Attendance: 54,180

Team Statistics

	Rams	Redskins
First downs	16	15
Rushing	9	9
Passing	6	5
Penalty	1	1
Third down efficiency	5-10	7-16
Fourth down efficiency	0-1	0-0
Net yards	324	228
Plays	53	64
Average gain	6.1	3.6
Net yards rushing	198	138
Rushes	34	41
Average per rush	5.8	3.4
Net yards passing	126	90
Completed-attempted	9-18	13-23
Yards per pass play	6.6	3.9
Sacked-yards lost	1-10	0-0
Had intercepted	2	0
Punts-average	3-38	5-42
Total return yardage	109	53
Punts-returns	2-23	2-8
Kickoffs-returns	6-86	2-27
Interceptions	0-0	2-18
Penalties-yards	8-78	6-45
Fumbles-lost	4-4	1-0
Time of possession	23:54	36:06

Individual Statistics

Rushing: L.A. Rams, Dickerson 26-158, Redden 7-28, Everett 1-12. Washington, Rogers 29-115, Bryant 4-17, Griffin 5-8, Schroeder 3-(-2)

Passing: L.A. Rams, Everett 9-18-2-136. Washington, Schroeder 13-23-0-90.

Receiving: L.A. Rams, House 3-70, Hill 3-27, Redden 1-20, Ellard 1-14, Long 1-5. Washington, Monk 5-34, Bryant 2-18, Sanders 2-15, Clark 1-8, Warren 1-7, Didier 1-4, Rogers 1-4.

Interceptions: Washington, Walton, Wilburn.

Missed Field Goals: L.A. Rams, Lansford 50.

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

N.Y. Jets	7	3	3	7	0	0 — 20
Cleveland	7	3	0	10	0	3 — 23

First Period

N.Y. Jets: Walker 42 pass from Ryan (Leahy kick), 9:56

Cleveland: Fontenot 37 pass from Kosar (Moseley kick), 13:16.

Second Period

Cleveland: FG Moseley 38, 9:09

N.Y. Jets: FG Leahy 46, 14:58

Third Period

N.Y. Jets: FG Leahy 37, 4:03

Fourth Period

N.Y. Jets: McNeil 25 run (Leahy kick), 10:46

Cleveland: Mack 1 run (Moseley kick), 13:03

Cleveland: FG Moseley 22, 14:53

First Overtime

No scoring

Second Overtime

Cleveland: FG Moseley 27, 2:02

Attendance: 78,106

Team Statistics

	Jets	Browns
First downs	14	33
Rushing	6	6
Passing	8	21
Penalty	0	6
Third down efficiency	2-18	7-19

Super Bowl MVP Phil Simms
(with center Bart Oates)
completed 22 of 25 passes in the
Giants' 39-20 victory over the Broncos.

Fourth down efficiency	1-1	0-0
Net yards	287	558
Plays	71	96
Average gain	4.0	5.8
Net yards rushing	104	75
Rushes	31	27
Average per rush	3.4	2.8
Net yards passing	183	483
Completed-attempted	17-30	34-65
Yards per pass play	4.6	7.0
Sacked-yards lost	9-54	4-11
Had intercepted	0	2
Punts-average	14-38	8-39
Total return yardage	114	111
Punts-returns	2-23	7-65
Kickoffs-returns	5-91	5-46
Interceptions	2-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	10-94	4-40
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-0
Time of possession	31:38	45:24

Individual Statistics

Rushing: New York: F. McNeil 25-71, O'Brien 3-22, Paige 3-11, Cleveland: Mack 20-63, Fontenot 3-8, Dickey 3-4, Kosar 1-0.
Passing: New York: O'Brien 11-19-0-134, Ryan 6-11-0-103, Cleveland: Kosar 33-64-2-489, Brennan 1-1-0-5.
Receiving: New York: Toon 5-93, Shuler 4-43, F. McNeil 4-35, Walker 2-49, Paige 1-10, Sohn 1-7, Cleveland: Newsome 6-114, Slaughter 6-86, Fontenot 5-62, Mack 5-51, Brennan 4-69, Langhorne 4-65, Holt 2-42, Weathers 1-3, Dickey 1-2.
Interceptions: New York: Carter, Holmes.
Missed Field Goals: Cleveland: Moseley 46, 44, 23.

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

New England	0	10	7	0-17
Denver	3	7	10	2-22

First Period

Denver: FG Karlis 27, 2:48

Second Period

New England: Morgan 19 pass from Eason (Franklin kick), 14:04

Denver: Elway 22 run (Karlis kick), 7:42

New England: FG Franklin 38, 0:02

Third Period

Denver: FG Karlis 22, 5:50

New England: Fryar 45 pass from Eason (Franklin kick), 2:50

Denver: V. Johnson 48 pass from Elway (Karlis kick), 0:00

Fourth Period

Denver: Safety, R. Jones tackled Eason in end zone, 1:37

Attendance: 76,105

Team Statistics

	Patriots	Broncos
First downs	12	23
Rushing	6	12
Passing	6	9
Penalty	0	2
Third down efficiency	2-12	5-15
Fourth down efficiency	0-0	0-0
Net yards	271	441
Plays	54	75
Average gain	5.0	5.9
Net yards rushing	121	188
Rushes	24	42
Average per rush	5.0	4.5
Net yards passing	150	253
Completed-attempted	13-24	13-32
Yards per pass play	5.0	7.7
Sacked-yards lost	6-44	1-4
Had intercepted	0	2
Punts-average	9-50	6-46
Total return yardage	46	119
Punts-returns	2-13	4-35
Kickoffs-returns	2-31	4-84
Interceptions	2-2	0-0
Penalties-yards	5-45	3-20
Fumbles-lost	1-0	0-0

continued



PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

continued

Time of possession..... 24:31.....35:29

Individual Statistics

Rushing: New England, Collins 5-46, James 10-31, Eason 2-23, Dupard 5-18, Hawthorne 1-5, Fryar 1-(-2). Denver, Winder 19-102, Lang 11-44, Elway 5-18, Bell 2-12, Sewell 2-8, Willhite 3-4.

Passing: New England, Eason 13-24-0-194. Denver, Elway 13-32-2-257.

Receiving: New England, Collins 4-46, Morgan 3-100, Baty 3-31, Fryar 2-11, Hawthorne 1-6. Denver, Johnson 4-89, Sewell 3-41, Mobley 2-69, Watson 1-21, Micho 1-20, Winder 1-16, Lang 1-1.

Interceptions: New England, McSwain, Rembert.

Missed Field Goals: None.

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

San Francisco.....3.....0.....0.....0 — 3
N.Y. Giants7.....21.....21.....0 — 49

First Period

N.Y. Giants: Bavaro 24 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 7:31

San Francisco: FG Wersching 26, 13:40

Second Period

N.Y. Giants: Morris 45 run (Allegre kick), 7:21

N.Y. Giants: B. Johnson 15 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 14:10

N.Y. Giants: Taylor 34 interception return (Allegre kick), 14:32

Third Period

N.Y. Giants: McConkey 28 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 6:04

N.Y. Giants: Mowatt 29 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 13:02

N.Y. Giants: Morris 2 run (Allegre kick), 14:44
Attendance: 76,034

Lawrence Taylor

Team Statistics

	49ers	Giants
First downs	9.....21	
Rushing	2.....12	
Passing	6.....6	
Penalty	1.....3	
Third down efficiency	2-14.....6-14	
Fourth down efficiency	0-0.....1-1	
Net yards	184.....366	
Plays	58.....65	
Average gain	3.2.....5.6	
Net yards rushing	29.....216	
Rushes	20.....44	
Average per rush	1.5.....4.9	
Net yards passing	155.....150	
Completed-attempted	15-37.....10-20	
Yards per pass play	4.1.....7.1	
Sacked-yards lost	1-7.....1-9	
Had intercepted	3.....0	
Punts-average	10-40.....7-44	



Joe Morris

George Rose/Focus West

Total return yardage	130.....166
Punts-returns	2-11.....7-57
Kickoffs-returns	7-119.....2-32
Interceptions	0-0.....3-77
Penalties-yards	11-62.....3-23
Fumbles-lost	2-1.....0-0
Time of possession	25:24.....34:36

Individual Statistics

Rushing: San Francisco, Craig 5-17, Rathman 3-8, Cribbs 12-4. New York, Morris 24-159, Rouson 8-28, Carthon 6-17, Simms 1-15, Anderson 4-2, Manuel 1-(-5).

Passing: San Francisco, Montana 8-15-2-98, Kemp 7-22-1-64. New York, Simms 9-19-0-136, Rutledge 1-1-0-23.

Receiving: San Francisco, Craig 4-22, Clark 3-52, Rice 3-48, Francis 3-26, Margerum 1-12, Cribbs 1-2. New York, Bavaro 2-47, Rouson 2-22, Mowatt 1-29, McConkey 1-28, Galbreath 1-9, Carthon 1-7, Morris 1-2.

Interceptions: New York, Taylor, Welch, Johnson.

Missed Field Goals: None.

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Washington.....7.....0.....7.....13 — 27
Chicago0.....13.....0.....0 — 13

First Period

Washington: Monk 28 pass from Schroeder (Atkinson kick), 12:45

Second Period

Chicago: Gault 50 pass from Flutie (Butler kick), 4:53

Chicago: FG Butler 23, 8:58

Chicago: FG Butler 41, 13:34



Mitchell B. Reibel

Third Period

Washington: Monk 23 pass from Schroeder (Atkinson kick), 7:51

Fourth Period

Washington: Rogers 1 run (Atkinson kick), 0:53

Washington: FG Atkinson 35, 6:54

Washington: FG Atkinson 25, 12:35

Attendance: 65,141

Team Statistics

	Redskins	Bears
First downs	19.....14	
Rushing	8.....8	
Passing	8.....5	
Penalty	3.....1	
Third down efficiency	6-16.....1-11	
Fourth down efficiency	0-0.....1-2	
Net yards	302.....220	
Plays	73.....56	
Average gain	4.1.....3.9	
Net yards rushing	134.....93	
Rushes	39.....21	
Average per rush	3.4.....3.9	
Net yards passing	168.....127	
Completed-attempted	15-32.....11-31	
Yards per pass play	4.9.....4.0	
Sacked-yards lost	2-16.....1-7	
Had intercepted	1.....2	
Punts-average	7-39.....6-41	
Total return yardage	126.....229	
Punts-returns	3-22.....5-27	
Kickoffs-returns	3-71.....6-159	
Interceptions	2-33.....1-43	
Penalties-yards	8-65.....4-42	
Fumbles-lost	2-0.....3-2	
Time of possession	33:44.....26:16	

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Washington, Rogers 28-72, Bryant 8-46, Schroeder 3-16. Chicago, Payton 14-38, Suhey 4-14, Thomas 3-18, Flutie 2-12, Anderson 1-11.

Passing: Washington, Schroeder 15-32-1-184. Chicago, Flutie 11-31-2-134.

Receiving: Washington, Monk 5-81, Clark 5-37, Bryant 4-61, Warren 1-5. Chicago, Gault 5-82, Ortego 2-36, Wrightman 2-16, Suhey 1-2, Payton 1-(-2).

Interceptions: Washington, Dean, Green. Chicago, Richardson.

Missed Field Goals: Chicago, Butler 49.

Mark Bavaro (right) caught four passes, including one for a 13-yard TD, in the Super Bowl; the Giants' defense (above) limited the Broncos to just 52 yards rushing in the game.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Denver..... 0..... 10..... 3..... 7..... 3—23
Cleveland..... 7..... 3..... 0..... 10..... 0—20

First Period

Cleveland: Fontenot 6 pass from Kosar
(Moseley kick), 9:41

Second Period

Denver: FG Karlis 19, 2:53
Denver: Willhite 1 run (Karlis kick), 4:24
Cleveland: FG Moseley 29 14:40

Third Period

Denver: FG Karlis 26, 12:10

Fourth Period

Cleveland: FG Moseley 24, 2:22
Cleveland: Brennan 48 pass from Kosar
(Moseley kick), 9:17

Denver: Jackson 5 pass from Elway (Karlis
kick), 14:23

Overtime

Denver: FG Karlis 33, 5:48
Attendance: 79,915

Team Statistics

	Broncos	Browns
First downs.....	22.....	17.....
Rushing.....	6.....	4.....
Passing.....	13.....	12.....
Penalty.....	3.....	1.....
Third down efficiency.....	5-18.....	5-13.....
Fourth down efficiency.....	1-1.....	0-0.....
Net yards.....	374.....	356.....
Plays.....	77.....	66.....
Average gain.....	4.9.....	5.4.....
Net yards rushing.....	149.....	100.....
Rushes.....	37.....	33.....
Average per rush.....	4.0.....	3.0.....
Net yards passing.....	225.....	256.....
Completed-attempted.....	22-38.....	18-32.....
Yards per pass.....	5.6.....	7.8.....

Sacked-yards lost.....	2-19.....	1-3.....
Had intercepted.....	1.....	2.....
Punts-average.....	7-38.....	6-43.....
Return yardage.....	83.....	142.....
Punts-returns.....	3-10.....	3-37.....
Kickoffs-returns.....	5-33.....	6-105.....
Interceptions.....	2-40.....	1-0.....
Penalties-yards.....	6-39.....	9-76.....
Fumbles-lost.....	1-0.....	3-1.....
Time of possession.....	34:05.....	31:43.....

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Denver, Winder 26-83, Elway 4-56,
Lang 3-9, Sewell 1-1, Willhite 3-0.
Cleveland, Mack 26-94, Kosar 4-3,
Fontenot 3-3.

Passing: Denver, Elway 22-38-1-244.
Cleveland, Kosar 18-32-2-259.

Receiving: Denver, Watson 3-55, Sewell 3-47,
Mobley 3-36, V. Johnson 3-25, M. Jackson
2-25, Kay 2-23, Willhite 2-20, Winder 2-2,
Sampson 1-10, Lang 1-1. Cleveland,
Fontenot 7-66, Brennan 4-72, Langhorne
2-35, Mack 2-20, Weathers 1-42, Slaughter
1-20, Byner 1-4.

Interceptions: Denver, Hunley, Ryan.
Cleveland, Harper.

Missed Field Goals: None.

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Washington..... 0..... 0..... 0..... 0—0
N.Y. Giants..... 10..... 7..... 0..... 0—17

First Period

New York: FG Allegre 47, 3:22
New York: Manuel 11 pass from Simms
(Allegre kick), 9:28

Second Period

New York: Morris 1 run (Allegre kick), 8:04
Attendance: 76,633

Team Statistics

	Redskins	Giants
First downs.....	12.....	12.....
Rushing.....	2.....	8.....
Passing.....	7.....	3.....
Penalty.....	3.....	1.....
Third down efficiency.....	0-14.....	3-13.....
Fourth down efficiency.....	0-4.....	1-2.....
Net yards.....	190.....	199.....
Plays.....	70.....	61.....
Average gain.....	2.7.....	3.7.....
Net yards rushing.....	40.....	117.....
Rushes.....	16.....	46.....
Average per rush.....	2.5.....	2.5.....
Net yards passing.....	150.....	82.....
Completed-attempted.....	20-50.....	7-14.....
Yards per pass.....	2.8.....	5.5.....
Sacked-yards lost.....	4-45.....	1-8.....
Had intercepted.....	1.....	0.....
Punts-average.....	9-36.....	6-42.....
Return yardage.....	34.....	42.....
Punts-returns.....	3-19.....	5-27.....
Kickoffs-returns.....	2-15.....	0-0.....
Interceptions.....	0-0.....	1-15.....
Penalties-yards.....	3-15.....	6-48.....
Fumbles-lost.....	3-1.....	4-3.....
Time of possession.....	26:56.....	33:04.....

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Washington, Bryant 6-25, Rogers
9-15, Schroeder 1-0. New York, Morris
29-87, Carthon 7-28, Anderson 1-3, Rouson
1-2, Galbreath 1-(-1), Simms 7-(-2).

Passing: Washington, Schroeder 20-50-1-195.
New York, Simms 7-14-0-90.

Receiving: Washington, Monk 8-126, Bryant
7-45, Warren 3-9, Griffin 1-8, Didier 1-7.
New York, Carthon 3-18, Manuel 2-36,
Bavaro 2-36.

Interceptions: New York, Reasons.
Missed Field Goals: None.

continued



PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP continued

SUPER BOWL XXI

At Pasadena, CA, January 25

Denver	10	0	0	10	20
N.Y. Giants	7	2	17	13	39

First Period

Denver: FG Karlis 48, 4:09

N.Y. Giants: Mowatt 6 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 9:33

Denver: Elway 4 run (Karlis kick), 12:54

Second Period

N.Y. Giants: Safety, Elway tackled in end zone, 12:14

Third Period

N.Y. Giants: Bavaro 13 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 4:52

N.Y. Giants: FG Allegre 21, 11:06

N.Y. Giants: Morris 1 run (Allegre kick), 14:36

Fourth Period

N.Y. Giants: McConkey 6 pass from Simms (Allegre kick), 4:04

Denver: FG Karlis 28, 8:59

N.Y. Giants: Anderson 2 run (kick failed), 11:42

Denver: V. Johnson 47 pass from Elway (Karlis kick), 12:54

Attendance: 101,063

Team Statistics

	Broncos	Giants
First downs	24	24
Rushing	5	10
Passing	16	13
Penalty	3	1
Third down efficiency	7-14	6-12

Fourth down efficiency	0-0	1-2
Net yards	372	399
Plays	64	64
Average gain	5.8	6.2
Net yards rushing	52	136
Rushes	19	38
Average per rush	2.7	3.6
Net yards passing	320	263
Completed-attempted	26-41	22-25
Yards per pass play	7.1	10.1
Sacked-yards lost	4-32	1-5
Had intercepted	1	0
Punts average	2-41	3-46
Had blocked	0	0
Total return yards	93	71
Punts-returns	1-9	1-25
Kickoffs-returns	4-84	6-53
Interceptions	0-0	1-(-7)
Penalties-yards	4-28	6-48
Fumbles-lost	2-0	0-0
Time of possession	25:21	34:39

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Denver, Elway 22-37, 1-304, Kubiak 4-4-0-48, New York, Simms 22-25-0-268.
Receiving: Denver, V. Johnson 5-121 Willhite 5-39, Winder 4-34, Jackson 3-51, Watson 2-54, Sampson 2-20, Mobley 2-17, Sewell 2-12, Lang 1-4, New York, Bavaro 4-51, Morris 4-20, Carthon 4-13, Robinson 3-62, Manuel 3-43, McConkey 2-50, Rouson 2-23, Mowatt 1-6.

Interceptions: New York, Patterson

Missed Field Goals: Denver, Karlis 23, 34

PAST SUPER BOWLS

1967	Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
1968	Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
1969	New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7
1970	Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
1971	Baltimore 16, Dallas 13
1972	Dallas 24, Miami 3
1973	Miami 14, Washington 7
1974	Miami 24, Minnesota 7
1975	Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
1976	Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
1977	Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
1978	Dallas 27, Denver 10
1979	Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31
1980	Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19
1981	Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
1982	San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21
1983	Washington 27, Miami 17
1984	Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9
1985	San Francisco 38, Miami 16
1986	Chicago 46, New England 10
1987	New York Giants 39, Denver 20

SUPER BOWL MVPs

1967	Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1968	Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1969	Joe Namath, New York Jets
1970	Len Dawson, Kansas City Chiefs
1971	Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys
1972	Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys
1973	Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins
1974	Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins
1975	Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers
1976	Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers
1977	Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland Raiders
1978	Randy White and Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys
1979	Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1980	Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1981	Jim Plunkett, Oakland Raiders
1982	Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1983	John Riggins, Washington Redskins
1984	Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders
1985	Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1986	Richard Dent, Chicago Bears
1987	Phil Simms, New York Giants



Phil McConkey turned a deflected pass into a 6-yard touchdown for New York in the Super Bowl.

Paul Jasenski

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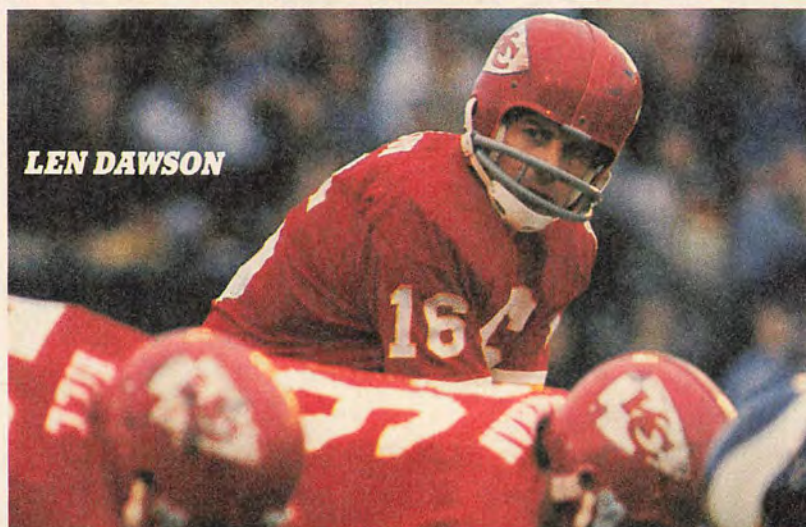
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HALL OF FAME



LEN DAWSON

Darryl Norenberg



DON MAYNARD

Focus on Sports



GENE UPSHAW

● The pro football Hall of Fame will induct seven new members in a ceremony on August 8 in Canton, Ohio. The honorees are: Joe Greene, Len Dawson, Larry Csonka, Don Maynard, Gene Upshaw, Jim Langer, and John Henry Johnson.

JOE GREENE

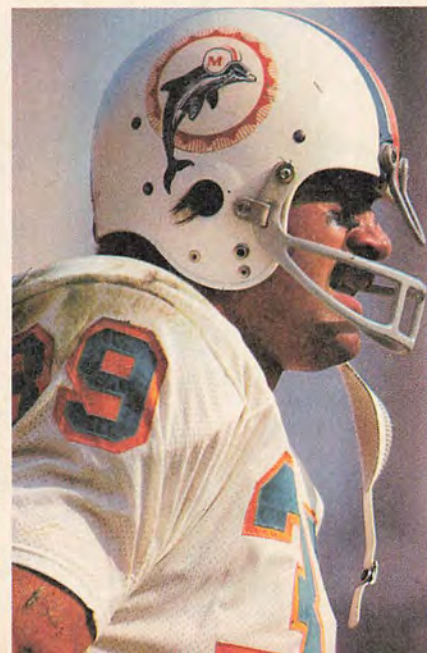
Following a 2-11-1 record in 1968, the Pittsburgh Steelers hired a new coach, Chuck Noll, who planned to renovate the team through the college draft. Noll never made a better decision than when he chose Greene, a defensive tackle from North Texas State, as the club's first selection in 1969. Greene reported 23 days late to training camp in a contract dispute his first summer. That didn't sit well with some of the veterans, who decided to teach the rookie a lesson when he finally agreed to terms. But in a two-on-one blocking drill, Greene overpowered his teammates.

"He grabbed Bruce [Van Dyke] by the neck and me by the shoulder pads and tossed us both away like we were rag dolls," recalled center Ray Mansfield. "It took him about a half-second to get to the quarterback." And about the same time for the Steelers to realize their good fortune. "All of a sudden we had a player who was head and shoulders above everyone," said Mansfield. "It was like having a big brother around when the bullies were coming to fight you."

Greene was an immediate hit, winning the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year award, and became the foundation upon which Pittsburgh's dynasty of the 1970s was built. Selected to the Pro Bowl ten times, including eight straight from 1970-77, Greene appeared in six AFC title games and four Super Bowls and was named the league Defensive Player of the Year twice.

"I want to be remembered for playing 13 years and contributing to four championship[s]," said Greene in announcing his retirement in 1981. "I would like to be remembered for maybe setting a standard for others to achieve."

continued



Darryl Norenberg

LARRY CSONKA



JOE GREENE



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HALL OF FAME continued

"He's the best I've seen," said Noll. "Joe will always be something special."

Steeler fans might have added, "Thanks, Mean Joe."

LEN DAWSON

Len Dawson, too, was a No. 1 draft choice of the Steelers, following a successful college career at Purdue, where he led the Big Ten conference in passing and total offense for three straight years. Pittsburgh won the coin flip with Cleveland and selected Dawson first in 1957, while the Browns settled for Jim Brown with their pick. But Dawson sat on the bench for three years and was traded to Cleveland. Dissatisfied with backup duty there, he jumped to the American Football League with the Dallas Texans, coached by former Purdue assistant Hank Stram.

"I felt Lenny was like sterling silver," said Stram. "He was tarnished but he just needed polishing."

Dawson won the first of his four passing titles in 1962 and was named the AFL Player of the Year after leading his team to the league championship. The franchise moved to Kansas City the next season and the Chiefs were perennial contenders, winning the AFL crown in 1966 and '69. They represented the league in the Super Bowl on both occasions, losing 35-10 to Green Bay in Super Bowl I and defeating Minnesota 23-7 in Super Bowl IV. In the latter, Dawson completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards and a touchdown and was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Dawson retired after the 1975 season, having played for 19 years. His career marks include 2,136 completions in 3,741 attempts (57%) for 28,711 yards and 239 TDs. He is No. 8 in the Hall of Fame's all-time rankings.

LARRY CSONKA

After surpassing the rushing totals of Jim Brown, Ernie Davis, Jim Nance, and Floyd Little at Syracuse, Larry Csonka was selected in the first round of the 1968 AFL draft by Miami. He became the Dolphins' starting fullback, but the club did not produce a winning record until Don Shula arrived as coach in 1970. That year marked the first of five consecutive playoff appearances, during which time Miami won four AFC East titles, three conference championships, and two Super Bowls. Csonka was picked for the Pro Bowl following each of those seasons. He rushed for over 1,000 yards for three straight years and enjoyed his finest moment in Super Bowl VIII, when he ran 33 times for 145 yards and two touchdowns in a victory over Minnesota. For that he was named the MVP.

Csonka jumped to the Memphis Southmen of the World Football League in 1975 with Miami teammates Jim Kiick and Paul Warfield. He rejoined the NFL the next year as a free agent with the New York Giants, then returned to the Dolphins for his final season in '79.

Csonka is pro football's No. 10 rusher, with 1,891 carries for 8,081 yards and 64 TDs. He also had 106 receptions for 820 yards and 4 scores. Remarkably sure-handed, he fumbled just 21 times in his career.

DON MAYNARD

A two-sport star at Texas Western, Don Maynard spent 14 of his 16 professional seasons in New York. As a running back with the Giants in 1958 he played sparingly behind

Frank Gifford, Kyle Rote, and Alex Webster. He joined the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League for a year before returning to New York in 1960 with the Titans of the new AFL. The team became known as the Jets in 1963, and when quarterback Joe Namath arrived in '65, he and Maynard formed one of the game's outstanding passing combinations. The two are the only Jets players in the Hall of Fame. In the AFL title game against Oakland in 1968, Maynard caught a 14-yard touchdown to put his team ahead in the first quarter, then a 52-yard bomb and a 6-yard TD on successive plays in the fourth quarter for the winning score.

"That is the one I'll never forget," Maynard said. "If we hadn't won that day, there would have been no Super Bowl III for us."

Though he never led the league in receiving, Maynard is one of only three players ever to record more than 50 catches and 1,000 yards in five different seasons. When he retired after a year with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1973, he was pro football's career leader in receptions (663) and yardage (11,834). His 88 touchdown catches are second to Don Hutson's 99.

GENE UPSHAW

The first Hall of Famer from the two-platoon era to play exclusively as a guard, Gene Upshaw was a success from the moment he arrived from Texas A&I. The Oakland Raiders'



JOHN HENRY JOHNSON

first-round pick in the 1967 draft, he won the first-string job on the offensive line in his rookie training camp and held that position through 207 consecutive starts (including pre- and postseason games) over 15 years. During that time, the Raiders tied or won the division title nine years and finished second on four other occasions. Eight times an all-star, Upshaw played in seven AFC title games and three Super Bowls.

"I named Gene captain my first year [1969]," said Raiders coach John Madden, "but his teammates [voted] him that honor every year since."

Upshaw is currently the executive director of the NFL Players Association.

JIM LANGER

The third member (with Joe Greene and Gene Upshaw) of the Hall of Fame's class of '87 to be elected in his first year of eligibility is Jim

Langer. A free agent in 1970 from South Dakota State, Langer was waived by the Cleveland Browns and signed by the Miami Dolphins. He saw limited duty his first two years, then beat out incumbent center Bob DeMarco in '72 and played every offensive down in the Dolphins' perfect 17-0 season. Langer was a key to Miami's ball-control attack, 69 percent of which were running plays. The Dolphins repeated as Super Bowl champs the following year and Langer was named to the Pro Bowl, the first of six such honors. He played in 141 consecutive games (including postseason) until a knee injury forced him to the sidelines in 1979. After 10 years in Miami, Langer, at his request, was traded to Minnesota, where he served as a backup and tutor to the Vikings' center Dennis Swilley for two seasons.

Said his former Miami teammate Larry Csonka, "I'm twice as happy to be inducted because Jim Langer is going in with me. He was absolutely critical to my career."

JOHN HENRY JOHNSON

Drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers after finishing his college career at Arizona State, John Henry Johnson chose instead to play for Calgary in the Canadian Football League. Though the Stampeders finished in last place, Johnson was the league's MVP. He joined the NFL after San Francisco acquired his rights in a trade and he finished second in rushing his rookie year (1954). Part of the 49ers' "Fabulous Foursome," which included Y.A. Tittle, Joe Perry, and Hugh McElhenny, Johnson is the last member of that backfield to enter the Hall of Fame. He was traded in 1957 to the Detroit Lions, whom he helped lead to the NFL championship. Two years later, he was dealt to Pittsburgh, where he enjoyed his finest seasons, rushing for over 1,000 yards twice. As valuable as he was as a runner, Johnson was a devastating blocker.



JIM LANGER

"John Henry is my bodyguard," said Steeler quarterback Bobby Layne. "Half the good runners will get a quarterback killed if you keep them around long enough. But a quarterback hits the jackpot when he gets a combination runner-blocker like Johnson."

Johnson closed out his 14-year professional career in 1966 with the Houston Oilers, the fourth-best rusher in history at the time. He now holds the No. 15 spot in the rankings, with 6,803 yards and 48 touchdowns.

● The American Football Conference is in such a state that its two best teams may emerge from last year's group of have-nots, the majority that did not qualify for the playoffs. Seattle and Cincinnati, whose 10-6 won-lost records were not quite good enough to allow them to play beyond last December 21, rank with the New England Patriots as prospective AFC powers for 1987.

Seattle finished last season like the Cannonball Express, speeding past Denver, the conference's eventual Super Bowl delegate, 41-16, in its last game. The Seahawks begin this season with a carryover, five-game winning streak. That is important propulsion. Cincinnati is capable of outscoring any opponent. Last season the Bengals, led by their exciting quarterback, Boomer Esiason, and their admirable running back, James Brooks, scored 409 points. Unfortunately, the defense allowed 394.

That's the major trouble with the AFC these days: defense. Check that. The major problem is lack of defense. Last January, the five National Conference teams that qualified for the playoffs allowed fewer than 300 points. The Chicago Bears surrendered just 187, the Super Bowl champion New York Giants 236, and Western Division champion San Francisco 247. Conversely, none of the five American Conference play-

The defending conference champion Broncos could repeat, but they seem to rely too much on the passing of John Elway and their defense is aging at several key positions.

Kansas City, which made the playoffs for the first time in 15 years, seems in too fragile a situation. The Chiefs fired their coach, John Mackovic, after the playoffs and replaced him with their special teams' coach, Frank Gansz, a controversial and risky move. They also needed 11 touchdowns from a tough defense and their special teams to make it into the playoffs, something that isn't likely to occur again.

The Los Angeles Raiders are a good team in search of a viable quarterback to lead them.

THE CENTRAL With Cincinnati, winning the Central Division is largely a matter of learning to master their Northern Ohio rival, Cleveland. The Bengals beat the Browns in Cleveland, 30-13, early in the season, then were destroyed by the Browns, 34-3, in a December game in Riverfront Stadium. The Bengals have been drafting defensive replacements for the last three seasons and this should be the year that that strategy pays dividends. The Browns have the balance to make this one of the most exciting races of the NFL season.

THE EAST New England should prevail again in the Eastern Division, mostly because of the Patriots' overall talent and balance. New England won last year when its running game went on sabbatical, something that the front office appeared to remedy last spring by trading with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for veteran offensive lineman Sean Farrell.

Miami is in a state of repair. The Dolphins' running game depends mostly upon the continued development of Lorenzo Hampton. The defense desperately needs Hugh Green, the quick linebacker, to make a full recovery from the

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

by **LARRY FELSER** BUFFALO NEWS

PREDICTIONS

WEST

1. Seattle Seahawks
2. Denver Broncos
3. Los Angeles Raiders
4. Kansas City Chiefs
5. San Diego Chargers

Wild-card teams: Cleveland Browns, Denver Broncos
Super Bowl team: Seattle Seahawks

CENTRAL

1. Cincinnati Bengals
2. Cleveland Browns
3. Pittsburgh Steelers
4. Houston Oilers

EAST

1. New England Patriots
2. Miami Dolphins
3. New York Jets
4. Buffalo Bills
5. Indianapolis Colts

off teams allowed fewer than 300 points. The New York Jets permitted 386. New England had the best mark, allowing 307 points. The Broncos' yield of 39 points to the Giants in the Super Bowl was no shock. In their final three regular-season games, the Broncos gave up 37 points to Kansas City, 30 to Washington, and 41 to Seattle.

Defense and running, according to NFL tradition, are what produce winners. The AFC doesn't do very well running the ball, either. Of the top six rushing teams in the NFL in 1986, four were from the National Conference. The only AFC teams to finish in the top six were Seattle and Cincinnati. There were eight 1,000-yard rushers in the league last year, six of them from the NFC. The only American Conference ball carriers in that group were Curt Warner of Seattle (No. 3) and James Brooks of Cincinnati (No. 8).

THE WEST That is what makes Seattle appear so attractive in the competitive Western Division of the AFC. The Seahawks allowed fewer points than any team in the conference (293), they run the ball very well with Warner, they have a solid passing game, and they are directed by one of the NFL's finest coaches, Chuck Knox. His next victory will be No. 131 for Knox, putting him one ahead of his mentor, Hall of Famer Weeb Ewbank, in the career rankings.

knee injury which knocked him out of play at midseason. As long as Dan Marino is available, however, Miami will at least be a contender.

The New York Jets, who appeared ready to overwhelm the division early last year, need too many recoveries from too many injuries and a rebuilding of their defense.

Here are some of the key men in the AFC for this season.

New York: defensive coordinator Bud Carson, who needs some sort of miracle for a unit that creaks with age and hobbles with various hurts

Cleveland: rookie linebacker Mike Junkin, who was selected after the Browns traded Pro Bowl linebacker Chip Banks to San Diego in order to move up in the draft

Los Angeles Raiders: whoever wins the quarterback job

Miami: Tom Olivadotti, the man Don Shula hired last winter in the latest episode of the search to replace the long-departed defensive guru Bill Arnsparger

Pittsburgh: defensive coordinator Tony Dungy, who was virtually awarded the Steelers' draft since six of the first seven picks were defenders. If he can make his reputation with the group, Dungy could go on to become the first black head coach in the NFL.

Indianapolis: Ron Meyer, the head coach who won all three of the games he coached after he took over the Colts late in the season

Buffalo: Ted Marchibroda, the former Baltimore Colts' head coach who was hired as the Bills' passing-game coordinator to get the sort of results from Jim Kelly that he once got from Bert Jones

San Diego: Chip Banks, as temperamental as he is talented, to bring the one needed piece to an improving defense

New England: Sean Farrell, to give the offensive line the sort of leadership John Hannah used to instill

Houston: Kim Helton, the new offensive line coach, who will work with talent that hasn't played up to its reputation

Denver: Dan Reeves, the head coach, who has to find a way to put more balance in the attack

Kansas City: Frank Gansz, since the appearance is that the inmates may be running the Chiefs' asylum

Cincinnati: running back James Brooks, who has to repeat his career year

Seattle: quarterback Dave Krieg, who can't afford another month-long slump like the one that marred an otherwise fine season in 1986

The AFC is attempting to learn a hard lesson taught it by the older National Conference. The NFC won five of the last six Super Bowls (the Raiders were the only AFC team to interrupt the streak), and the consistent theme was defense and running. When the AFC teams went to the last draft, their priorities, for the most part, were defense and running. Of the 15 first-round draft choices held by AFC teams (Houston had two), 12 of them were used to draft either run-oriented or defensive players. The final tally was seven for defense, five for the running game.

Cleveland took Junkin, Indianapolis drafted Alabama linebacker Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo selected Penn State linebacker Shane Conlan. The other defensive picks: Brigham Young defensive end Jason Buck by Cincinnati, Boston College defensive end John Bosa by Miami, Purdue defensive back Rod Woodson by Pittsburgh and Pitt linebacker Tony Woods by Seattle. Houston selected Miami running back Alonzo Highsmith and the Jets' choice was Texas A&M fullback Roger Vick. The other choices: Louisville guard Bruce Armstrong by New England, Missouri tackle John Clay by the

Seattle allowed fewer points than any team in the AFC last year. That strong defense and the conference's leading rusher, Curt Warner (#28), should propel the Seahawks over the top and into the Super Bowl this season.

Raiders, and Temple running back Paul Palmer by Kansas City. The only so-called skilled players taken by AFC teams in the first round were Florida wide receiver Ricky Nattiel by Denver, Texas A&M tight end Rod Bernstine by San Diego, and North Carolina State receiver Haywood Jeffries by the Oilers with their second pick.

Why shouldn't the AFC go the defense/running route? Most of the quarterbacks selected in the Great Passer Draft of 1983 have matured. There are eight teams with solid situations at quarterback. Dan Marino got Miami to a Super Bowl. Elway did the same for Denver and Tony Eason for New England. The New York Jets now have an explosive offense, thanks to the development of Ken O'Brien. Boomer Esiason is one of the most dangerous passers in the league for Cincinnati. Bernie Kosar delivered ahead of schedule for Cleveland. Dave Krieg is productive in Seattle.

The only brand-new coach in the AFC this year is Gansz, who will be a head man for the first time at any level. Three coaches will be starting their first full, they hope, seasons after assuming command during the course of the '86 campaign. Al Saunders took over from Don Coryell at San Diego for the last eight games, Meyer replaced Rod Dowhower with three games to go for Indianapolis, and Marv Levy assumed command from Hank Bullough with seven games to play. Saunders's record was 3-5, Meyer's 3-0, and Levy's 2-5. Some of the individual leaders for 1987 could be:

- *Rushing:* Curt Warner, Seattle
- *Passing:* Dan Marino, Miami
- *Receiving:* Steve Largent, Seattle
- *Defensive rookie of the year:* linebacker Cornelius Bennett, Indianapolis
- *Offensive rookie of the year:* fullback Alonzo Highsmith, Houston
- *Most valuable player:* Curt Warner, Seattle
- *Coach of the year:* Chuck Knox, Seattle



AFC West



CURT WARNER

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Not only were the Seahawks the best team not to qualify for the last playoffs, but also, by the final week of the season, they may have been the worthiest of playing in the Super Bowl. The evidence is the result of the last game between Seattle and the eventual AFC delegate to the Super Bowl, the Denver Broncos: Seahawks 41, Broncos 16. Seattle won its last five games, a string that included a 37-0 shutout of the Los Angeles Raiders and a 31-14 pasting of the Cowboys in Dallas on Thanksgiving Day. Only a four-game losing streak that immediately preceded the winning streak kept the Seahawks out of postseason play.

"We would like to pick up where we left off last season," says coach Chuck Knox ruefully. Knox and his staff, among the most skilled in

SEAHAWKS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson, 108 points on 42 extra points and 22 field goals. . . 2nd
RUSHING—Warner, 1,481 yards on 319 carries, 4.6 avg., 13 TDs. . . 1st
PASSING—Krieg, 225 of 375 attempts for 2,921 yards and 21 TDs. . . 2nd
RECEIVING—Largent, 70 receptions for 1,070 yards, 15.3 avg., 9 TDs. . . 7th
INTERCEPTIONS—Brown, 5 for 58 yards, 11.6 avg. . . 8th
PUNTING—Gamache, 79 punts, 38.6 avg., longest 55 yards. . . 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Edmonds, 34 for 419 yards, 12.3 avg., 1 TD. . . 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Edmonds, 34 for 764 yards, 22.5 avg. . . 6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 13 At L.A. Rams (N)
21 At St. Louis (N)
28 DETROIT (N)
September 4 SAN FRANCISCO (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

	1986 SCORES
September 13 At Denver	13-20
20 KANSAS CITY	23-17
27 At San Diego	34-24
October 4 MIAMI	—
11 CINCINNATI	7-34
18 At Detroit	—
25 At Los Angeles Raiders	10-14
November 1 MINNESOTA	—
9 At New York Jets (N)	7-38
15 GREEN BAY	—
22 SAN DIEGO	33-7
30 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)	37-0
December 6 At Pittsburgh	30-0
13 DENVER (N)	41-16
20 At Chicago	—
27 At Kansas City	7-27

the NFL, were responsible for much of the team's success in 1986, when the Seahawks played the most difficult schedule in the NFL and still managed a 10-6 record. Over the giddy last five games, the offense, under new coordinator Steve Moore, averaged 33.4 points. The defense, under the direction of the astute Tom Catlin, gave up an average of just 14.8 points in that same stretch.

Yet Knox also has to shoulder some of the blame for the losing streak that took Seattle out of contention. It has to do with his tradition-

al impatience with quarterbacks (he used a different one each year in winning five consecutive division titles with the Los Angeles Rams). Quarterback David Krieg, who finished with the third-highest passer rating in the NFL (91.0) behind only Tommy Kramer of Minnesota (92.6) and Miami's Dan Marino (92.5), was benched for two games during Seattle's slide when he went into a mild slump. Over the last five games, Krieg threw 11 touchdown passes and was intercepted only once. Over the last four years, Krieg has thrown 98 touchdown passes. The only NFL quarterback with more during that stretch is Marino, with 142. It's unlikely that Knox will bench Krieg for Jeff Kemp, Gale Gilbert, or anyone else if Dave slumps mildly.

Curt Warner, who was recognized as one of the three or four best runners in the NFL going into last season, enters this one on a much higher level. He had his best year as a pro, rushing for 1,481 yards, a 4.6-yard average, and 13 touchdowns. The next closest AFC runner was nearly 400 yards back. Warner also caught 41 passes for 342 additional yards. He is one of the best blocking backs in football. During the five-game winning streak, Warner had three 100-yard games, seven for the season. In the season finale against the Broncos, he scored three touchdowns and ran for 192 yards.

The Seahawks had one of the year's most useful rookies in fullback John L. Williams. Not only is he a superb lead blocker for Warner, but he also contributed 538 yards and a 4.2-yard average, plus 33 catches for another 219 yards. Williams should be more effective this season. For instance, he should find his way to the end zone. He doesn't have an NFL touchdown yet.



NORM JOHNSON

Williams isn't the only Seahawk with personal incentives confronting him. Wide receiver Steve Largent can become the all-time leading wide receiver in the history of professional football. He needs just 57 catches for 1,018 yards to reach the top in both categories. The 57 are well under his average (63) for 11 seasons. It's routine for him to enjoy a 1,000-yard season. Last season he caught 70 passes for 1,070 yards and nine touchdowns.

If Largent is Krieg's security blanket, Daryl Turner is the quarterback's high-risk collaborator. Turner has averaged 10 touchdowns a season over the last three years. He caught only 18 passes a year ago, but seven of them produced scores and his per-catch average was 18.6 yards. There are two other distance receivers: ex-Colt Ray Butler caught four touchdown passes among his 19 receptions and averaged 18.5 yards; Byron Franklin caught 33 passes for a 16.6-yard average and two TDs. The Seahawks get by with a hybrid at tight end. Mike Tice caught 15 passes and Gordon Hudson 13.

The offensive line was reordered in 1986 and played under a relatively new coach, Kent Stephenson, but its production was amazing. Both tackles were new. Mike Wilson was obtained in a trade with Cincinnati; Ron Mattes, a defensive end at the University of Virginia, was converted to offensive tackle and flourished. Bryan Millard became the starting right guard. Edwin Bailey, the left guard, was the only incumbent starter who

remained in his position for most of the year. Blair Bush, the long-time center, suffered a knee injury halfway through the season, so Will Grant, who played for Knox in Buffalo, was the starting center during the winning streak. The two will fight it out in training camp.

The significant statistic defensively was that the Seahawks ranked No. 1 in the NFL in scoring defense. They were not hypnotized by the fast finish, however. The first two draft choices were linebackers: Tony Woods of Pitt and Dave Wyman of Stanford. "We got a physical football player who has the size and speed we're looking for," says Knox of Woods. "We'll put him at right outside linebacker and use him in some pass-rush situations." Wyman, an inside backer, will break in with specialty work. So will the third pick, safety Mark Moore.

What the Seahawk defense needs most is a comeback by its all-pro strong safety, Kenny Easley, the unit's best player, who missed the final five games due to ankle surgery. Easley is the disrupter of the defense, crashing into running plays, intimidating receivers, and generally making himself a nuisance. The Seahawks have a good backup in Paul Moyer, who started against the Super Bowl champion New York Giants and contributed 10 tackles, a sack, and an interception. Eugene Robinson became the surprise starter at free safety and finished with 99 tackles, second on the team. Dave Brown, starting his 13th pro season, is at one corner with Terry Taylor at the other. Kerry Justin and Gregory Johnson, who returned after working in the USFL, provide depth.

End Jacob Green led the team with 12½ sacks and made the Pro Bowl for the first time. Jeff Bryant is the other end. There is a battle for the starting job at nose tackle between one-time Pro Bowler Joe Nash and ex-Raider Reggie Kinlaw. Kinlaw may be better against the run, but Nash had five sacks, tied for third on the team.

Linebacker Fredd Young made the Pro Bowl for the third time but the first as a linebacker. He was selected as special teams' commando before then. Young led the Sea-

hawks in tackles with 121 and was second in sacks with six. He lines up on the inside with Keith Butler. Greg Gaines is the right outside linebacker and Bruce Scholtz has to fight off Woods on the left side.

Rookie Bobby Joe Edmunds made the Pro Bowl after leading the AFC in punt returns with 12.3-yard average on 34 carries, including one for a touchdown. He was also sixth in the conference in kickoff returns with a 22.5-yard average. Kicker Norm Johnson connected five times in seven tries from the 50-yard line or beyond, while kicking 22 of 35 overall. The Seahawks drafted a punter, Ruben Rodriguez of Arizona, on the fifth round.

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	NFL college
47	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	199	24	2	Fort Valley St.
65	Bailey, Edwin	G	6-4	276	28	7	S.C. State
76	Borchardt, Jon	G	6-5	272	30	9	Montana State
22	Brown, Dave	CB	6-1	197	34	13	Michigan
77	Bryant, Jeff	DE	6-5	272	27	6	Clemson
59	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	272	31	10	Washington
53	Butler, Keith	LB	6-4	238	31	10	Memphis State
83	Butler, Ray	WR	6-3	203	30	8	Southern Cal
87	Davis, Tony	TE	6-5	239	25	1	Missouri
45	Easley, Kenny	S	6-3	206	28	7	UCLA
30	Edmunds, Bobby Joe	RB	5-11	186	23	2	Arkansas
68	Edwards, Randy	DE	6-4	266	26	4	Alabama
66	Eisenhooth, Stan	C	6-5	291	24	1	Towson State
64	Essink, Ron	T	6-6	282	29	8	Grand Valley St.
97	Feasel, Grant	C	6-7	280	27	3	Abilene Christian
88	Franklin, Byron	WR	6-1	183	29	6	Auburn
56	Gaines, Greg	LB	6-3	222	29	6	Tennessee
2	Garnache, Vince	P	5-11	176	26	2	Cal Fullerton
7	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	206	26	3	California
52	Grant, Will	C	6-3	268	33	10	Kentucky
69	Graves, Rory	T	6-6	290	24	1	Ohio State
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	252	30	8	Texas A&M
84	Greene, Danny	WR	5-11	197	26	2	Washington
85	Hudson, Gordon	TE	6-4	241	25	2	Brigham Young
23	Hunter, Patrick	CB	5-11	185	23	2	Nevada-Reno
27	Johnson, Gregory	S	6-1	197	29	5	Oklahoma State
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	194	27	6	UCLA
26	Justin, Kerry	CB	5-11	175	32	7	Oregon State
54	Kaiser, John	LB	6-3	227	25	4	Arizona
62	Kauahi, Kani	C	6-2	254	28	6	Hawaii
6	Kemp, Jeff	QB	6-0	201	28	7	Dartmouth
63	Kinlaw, Reggie	NT	6-2	249	30	8	Oklahoma
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	196	29	8	Millen
37	Lane, Eric	RB	6-0	201	28	7	Brigham Young
80	Largent, Steve	WR	5-11	191	33	12	Tulsa
70	Mattes, Ron	T	6-6	306	24	2	Virginia
51	Merriman, Sam	LB	6-3	232	26	5	Idaho
71	Millard, Bryan	G	6-5	284	27	4	Texas
61	Miltz, Alonzo	DE	6-3	273	24	2	Florida
43	Morris, Randall	RB	6-0	200	26	4	Tennessee
21	Moyer, Paul	S	6-1	203	26	5	Arizona State
72	Nash, Joe	NT	6-2	257	27	6	Boston College
73	Powell, Alvin	G	6-5	296	28	1	Winston-Salem
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	186	24	3	Colgate
8	Salisbury, Sean	QB	6-5	215	24	2	Southern Cal
58	Scholtz, Bruce	LB	6-6	244	29	6	Texas
74	Singer, Curt	T	6-5	279	23	2	Tennessee
82	Skansi, Paul	WR	5-11	183	26	5	Washington
20	Taylor, Terry	CB	5-10	191	26	4	Southern Illinois
86	Tice, Mike	TE	6-7	247	28	7	Maryland
81	Turner, Daryl	WR	6-3	194	26	4	Michigan State
89	Walker, Byron	WR	6-4	188	27	5	Citadel
28	Warner, Curt	RB	5-11	204	26	4	Penn State
32	Williams, John L.	FB	5-11	226	23	2	Florida
75	Wilson, Mike	T	6-5	280	32	10	Georgia
50	Young, Fredd	LB	6-1	233	26	4	New Mexico St.

DRAFTIES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Woods, Tony	DE	6-4	244	Pittsburgh
2	Wyman, David	LB	6-2	229	Stanford
4	Moore, Mark	DB	6-0	194	Oklahoma St.
5	Agee, Tommie	RB	5-11	211	Auburn
5	Rodriguez, Ruben	P	6-2	220	Arizona
7	Barbay, Roland	DT	6-4	260	LSU
7	Tennell, Derek	TE	6-5	245	UCLA
8	Garza, Sammy	DB	6-1	184	UTEP
9	Johnson, M. L.	LB	6-3	220	Hawaii
10	Clark, Louis	TE	6-0	206	Mississippi St.
11	Oliver, Darryl	RB	5-11	195	Miami
12	Dove, Wes	DE	6-7	270	Syracuse
12	Burse, Tony	RB	6-0	220	Middle Tenn. St.



DAVE KRIEG



KENNY EASLEY



JACOB GREEN

AFC West DENVER BRONCOS

Hidden in the Rockies as they are, the Broncos seem to sneak up on the rest of the NFL each year. That, however, is the rest of the NFL's fault, not Denver's. There was no sneaking up a year ago. The Broncos won the AFC West in hand-to-hand combat. The second- and third-place teams in the division each won 10 games. Denver made its way through the playoffs with clutch plays to beat good teams. It isn't sneaking up when a team wins 10 games seven times in the last 10 years, as Denver has. Only Dallas and Miami can make the same claim.

There will be no sneaking up this year. The rest of the NFL will be ready for the AFC champions. Whatever the Broncos gain won't come easily. "We accomplished a great deal last year," said coach Dan Reeves, "but we have to accomplish a great deal more." It is never easy for the Broncos in one of the most competitive divisions in football. Denver swept only one Western opponent, the Los Angeles Raiders, but still won the division by splitting with Seattle, Kansas City, and San Diego.

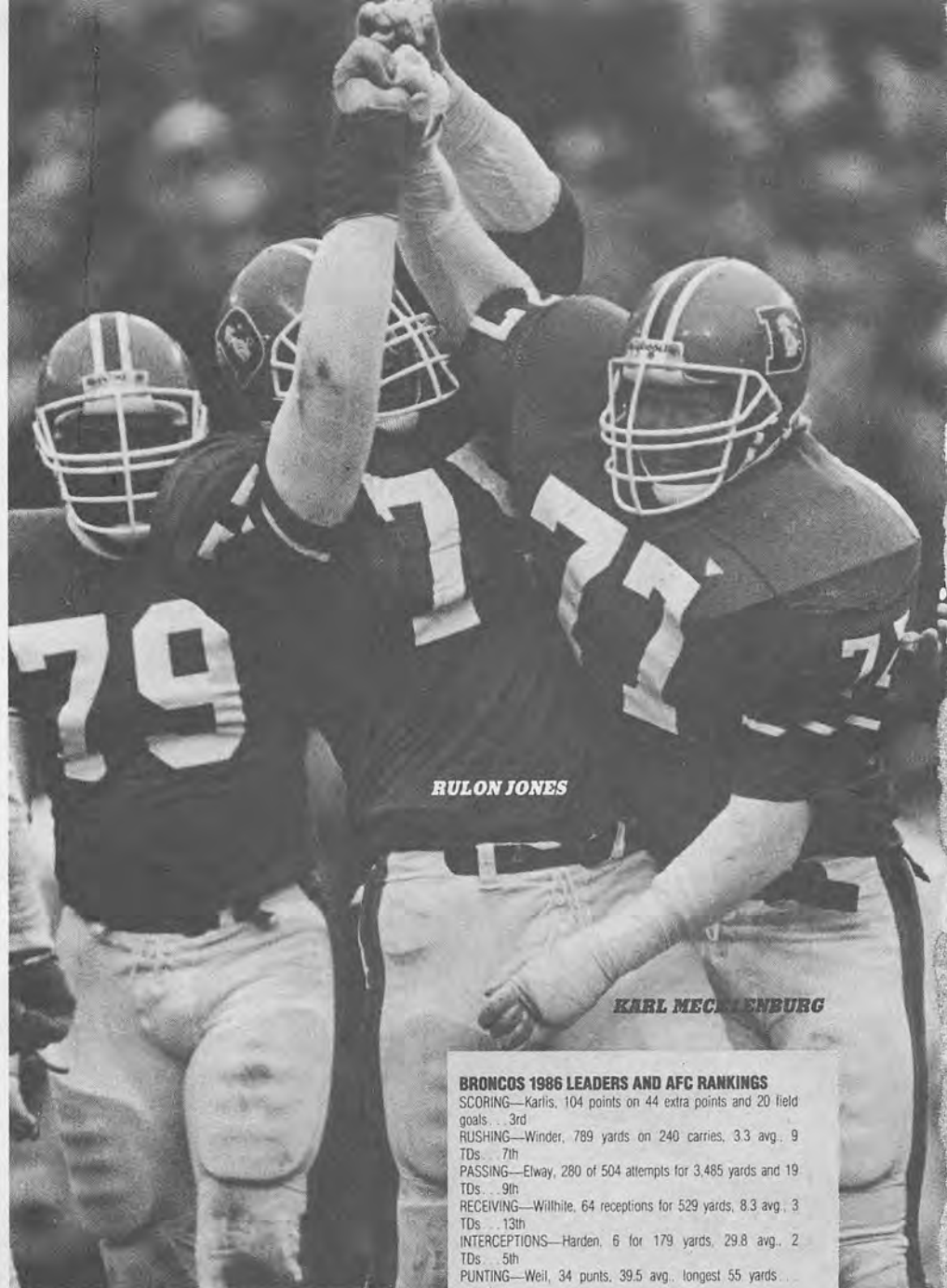
Bronco followers should know what to expect soon enough this season. Denver meets ambitious Seattle in its opener. The second opponent is Cleveland, Denver's victim in the AFC title game, on a Monday night. The revenge-minded Raiders and Kansas City also will be met within the first six weeks.

This will be the fifth season as the starting quarterback for John Elway. He is approaching the top of his game, so don't be surprised if the Broncos start firing away in the Miami manner. Elway passed for 3,485 yards and 19

JOHN ELWAY



touchdowns, modest figures by Dan Marino's standards, but those numbers could inflate in 1987. For one thing, Mark Jackson, who caught the tying touchdown pass in the overtime victory over the Browns, has reached the point where he will push long-time starter Steve Watson. Vance Johnson is nearing the star level as the other wide receiver. Fullback Gerald Willhite was the most productive receiver coming out of the backfield in Denver history. Consider also Denver's record when it



RULON JONES

KARL MECKENBURG

scored 20 points or more last year: 13-1. The only loss was the 39-20 Super Bowl defeat by the New York Giants. The evidence seems to be obvious. When the Broncos unleash Elway and open up the offense, it takes a champion to beat them.

Reeves himself concedes that the ingredients for an outstanding running attack aren't there yet. "We have quality running backs," he says, "but we don't have the outstanding running backs that some teams have." As for the parallels to Miami's high-powered offense, Denver has competent running, which the Dolphins don't often possess. Denver's defense does something Miami's rarely brings off: it gets the ball back for the offense.

Elway could open up the passing game with the confidence that he can balance things with his running attack and that his defense can recapture the ball if something does go wrong. The proof that the Broncos could expand their passing horizons may lie in Elway's statistics in two games against the

BRONCOS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Karlis, 104 points on 44 extra points and 20 field goals. . . 3rd
RUSHING—Winder, 789 yards on 240 carries, 3.3 avg., 9 TDs. . . 7th
PASSING—Elway, 280 of 504 attempts for 3,485 yards and 19 TDs. . . 9th
RECEIVING—Willhite, 64 receptions for 529 yards, 8.3 avg., 3 TDs. . . 13th
INTERCEPTIONS—Harden, 6 for 179 yards, 29.8 avg., 2 TDs. . . 5th
PUNTING—Weil, 34 punts, 39.5 avg., longest 55 yards. . . unranked
PUNT RETURNS—Willhite, 42 for 468 yards, 11.1 avg., 1 TD. . . 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bell, 23 for 531 yards, 23.1 avg., . . . 4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 9 L.A. Rams (At Wembley Stadium, London, England)
15 Green Bay (at Tempe, AZ, N)
24 MIAMI (N)
29 At L.A. Rams (N)
September 3 MINNESOTA (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September 13 SEATTLE 20-13
20 vs. Green Bay (Milw)
28 At Cleveland (N)
October 4 HOUSTON
12 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N) 38-36
18 At Kansas City 10-37
25 At Minnesota
November 1 DETROIT
8 At Buffalo
16 CHICAGO (N)
22 At Los Angeles Raiders 21-10
29 At San Diego 31-14
December 6 NEW ENGLAND 27-20
13 At Seattle (N) 16-41
19 KANSAS CITY 38-17
27 SAN DIEGO 3-9

Giants, as ferocious a defensive team as there is in the NFL. In those two games, Elway passed for 640 yards.

Remaining with the status quo can be deadly in the AFC West, especially since Denver's defense is showing some age at vital positions. So, with their first-round pick this spring, the Broncos chose Ricky Nattiel, the Florida State wide receiver who was the fastest man at his position in the entire draft. Nattiel is a proven big-play producer. Tight end Orson Mobley, the high-rise that moves like a man, was the surprise find of the 1986 season. The 6-6, 256-pounder from tiny Salem (WV) College averaged 15.1 yards on his 22 catches, all of which occurred in the last nine games. He became a particularly valuable player after Clarence Kay, the starter for most of the season, left the team to undergo drug rehabilitation.

The offensive line may not be up to the standards of the rest of the Denver team, but it is fairly consistent and dependable. Left guard Keith Bishop, the outstanding member, made the Pro Bowl last year. Reeves likes his center, Bill Bryan, as well as any in the NFL. Right tackle Ken Lanier, says Reeves, "does not

have the peaks and valleys he had in other years." Right guard Mark Cooper underwent offseason surgery and Dave Studdard may have to beat out soph Jim Juriga, who was pushing for a starting job when a knee injury knocked him out for the year.

Sammy Winder ran for 789 yards and scored nine touchdowns. Willhite averaged 4.3 yards on his 75 carries and scored five times. But that's the rub. Winder carried the ball 240 times. The Bronco running game is so predictable, that Winder gets the ball two out of three plays. Steve Sewell is more of a pass-receiving threat than a runner.

The major change in the defense is the retirement of Tom Jackson, who won the Broncos' most inspirational player award for the sixth consecutive season. Ken Woodard, a six-year veteran, replaces Jackson, although the Broncos drafted linebackers on the third and fourth rounds: Michael Brooks of Louisiana State and Marc Munford of Nebraska. Brooks is a first-round talent, but the knee injury he suffered halfway through his senior year scared off many scouts.

The top linebacker is Karl Mecklenburg, who once again made the Pro Bowl after lining up at every linebacker and line position in the sophisticated schemes of defensive coordinator Joe Collier. Mecklenburg was second on the team in sacks with 9½ and took part in 127 tackles. Ricky Hunley developed into a first-rate run-stopper. He had 18 tackles against the New York Jets and 16 against the New York Giants in Denver's regular-season meeting with the champs. Jim Ryan is steady at the left outside position. Reeves calls Hunley and Mecklenburg, "as good a pair of inside linebackers as anyone has."

Rulon Jones is the stud of the line. He set a Denver record with 13½ sacks, had 96 tackles, was named to the Pro Bowl for a second straight year, and made the sack for a safety that preserved Denver's victory over New England in the playoffs. Andre Townsend, who succeeded the retired Barney Chavous at left end, played solidly. The one questionable spot is nose tackle, where Greg Kragen and Tony Colorito split the duty as successors to long-time star Rubin Carter. Freddie Gilbert, signed after the USFL went down, could develop as a pass-rushing specialist at end.

The Broncos may be kidding themselves

about veteran cornerback Louie Wright. He's 34 now, and even though he had a good year in '86, his age is a worry. The Broncos traded with the Giants for Mark Haynes a year ago, but he has been a disappointment. Dennis Smith made the Pro Bowl at strong safety, but the truth is that he was victimized for big plays a number of times late in the year. Tony Lilly bid for Steve Foley's job at free safety.

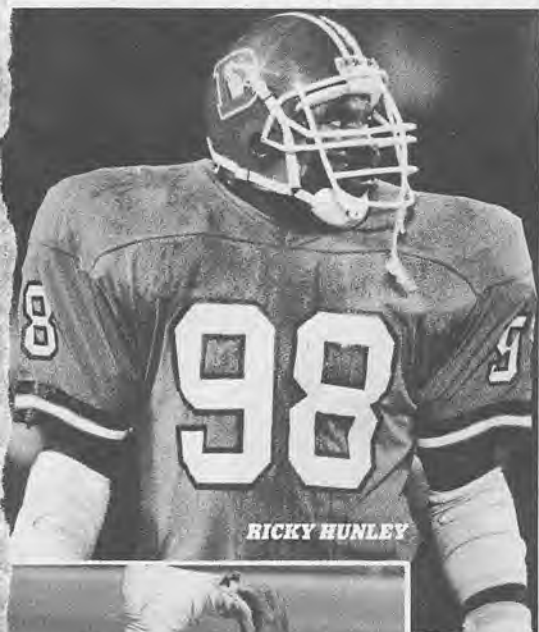
Rick Karlis kicked 20 field goals in 28 attempts, but the ones he'll be remembered for are the two that he missed in the Super Bowl. The Broncos tried three punters until Reeves settled on Mike Horan. His 21 boots averaged 41.1 yards and eight of them were downed or went out of bounds within the 20-yard line. The Broncos' return game was strong. Willhite averaged 11.1 yards on punts and Ken Bell 23.1 and Gene Lang 22.9 on kickoffs.

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	NFL college
35	Bell, Ken	RB	5-10	190	23	1	Boston College
54	Bishop, Keith	OL	6-3	265	30	6	Baylor
64	Bryan, Billy	C	6-2	255	32	10	Duke
72	Cameron, Dallas	LB	6-2	242	23	1	Miami
69	Colorito, Tony	NT	6-5	260	23	1	Southern Cal
59	Comeaux, Darren	LB	6-1	227	27	5	Arizona State
63	Cooper, Mark	G	6-5	267	27	4	Miami
55	Dennison, Rick	LB	6-3	220	29	5	Colorado State
32	Dudek, Joe	RB	6-0	181	22	1	Plymouth State
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	210	27	4	Stanford
73	Fletcher, Simon	DE	6-5	240	25	2	Houston
43	Foley, Steve	S	6-3	190	34	11	Tulane
62	Freeman, Mike	G	6-3	256	26	2	Arizona
90	Gilbert, Freddie	DE	6-4	275	25	1	Georgia
85	Hackett, Joey	TE	6-5	267	29	1	Elon College
31	Harden, Mike	CB	6-1	192	28	7	Michigan
36	Haynes, Mark	CB	5-11	195	29	7	Colorado
2	Horan, Mike	P	5-11	190	28	3	Long Beach St.
60	Howard, Paul	G	6-3	260	36	13	Brigham Young
98	Hunley, Ricky	LB	6-2	238	26	3	Arizona
80	Jackson, Mark	WR	5-9	174	24	1	Purdue
82	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	174	24	2	Arizona
75	Jones, Rulon	DE	6-6	260	29	7	Utah State
66	Juriga, Jim	T	6-6	269	22	1	Illinois
3	Karlis, Rich	K	6-0	180	28	5	Cincinnati
88	Kay, Clarence	TE	6-2	237	26	3	Georgia
97	Klostermann, Bruce	LB	6-4	225	24	1	So. Dakota State
71	Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	245	25	2	Utah State
8	Kubiak, Gary	QB	6-0	192	26	4	Texas A & M
76	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	269	28	6	Florida State
33	Lang, Gene	RB	5-10	196	25	3	LSU
22	Lilly, Tony	S	6-0	199	25	3	Florida
77	Mecklenburg, K.	DE/LB	6-3	230	27	4	Minnesota
87	Micho, Bobby	TE	6-3	240	25	2	Texas
89	Mobley, Orson	TE	6-5	256	24	1	Salem College
74	Remsburg, Dan	T	6-6	275	25	1	Abilene Christ.
48	Robbins, Randy	S	6-2	189	25	3	Arizona
83	Rolle, Gary	WR	5-11	174	24	1	Florida
50	Ryan, Jim	LB	6-1	218	30	8	William & Mary
84	Sampson, Clint	WR	5-11	183	26	4	San Diego St.
30	Sewell, Steve	RB	6-3	210	24	2	Oklahoma
71	Short, Stan	OL	6-4	269	23	1	Penn State
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	28	6	Southern Cal
70	Studdard, Dave	T	6-4	260	32	8	Texas
61	Townsend, Andre	DL	6-3	265	25	3	Mississippi
81	Watson, Steve	WR	6-4	195	30	8	Temple
47	Willhite, Gerald	RB	5-10	200	28	5	San Jose State
45	Wilson, Steve	CB	5-10	195	30	8	Howard
23	Winder, Sammy	RB	5-11	203	28	5	So. Mississippi
52	Woodard, Ken	LB	6-1	218	27	5	Tuskegee
99	Woodard, Raymond	DE	6-6	290	25	1	Texas
20	Wright, Louis	CB	6-3	200	34	12	San Jose State

DRAFTIES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Nattiel, Ricky	WR	5-9	180	Florida
3	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	LSU
4	Munford, Marc	LB	6-2	231	Nebraska
6	Marshall, Warren	RB	6-0	216	Madison
7	Strozier, Wilbur	OL	6-4	264	Georgia
8	Morgan, Dan	OG	6-6	285	Penn State
9	Plummer, Bruce	DB	6-1	197	Mississippi St.
10	Wilkerson, Rafe	LB	6-3	235	Richmond
11	Roberts, Steve	DE	6-4	238	Washington
11	Neal, Tommy	RB	5-10	210	Maryland
12	Braxton, Tyrone	DB	5-11	174	N. Dakota St.



RICKY HUNLEY



VANCE JOHNSON



STEVE SEWELL



LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

The Raiders keep talking of their record for the last 10 to 15 years. Not a bad idea when you consider that the alternative would be to talk about 1986. Their 1987 season could be just as dismal.

It didn't seem that way heading into the stretch run last season. With a month to play, the Raiders appeared to have clinched a playoff berth. Three of their remaining four games were scheduled for the Los Angeles Coliseum. It seemed like a sure thing. But hapless Philadelphia nipped them in overtime. In the one road game, Seattle beat them, 37-0. They lost a must game to Kansas City. Then, in the ultimate insult, the Indianapolis Colts upset them in the final game. Most of the scars that marked that final gauntlet still haunt the Raiders: a penchant for giving away the ball, poor quarterbacking, malfunctions in the offensive line, and a failure to keep their opponents from scoring at critical times.

The name to remember for 1987 won't be Marcus Allen, Howie Long, Todd Christensen, or any of the Raiders' marvelous old pros. The name is Hilger, Rusty. He is the third-year quarterback from Oklahoma State, drafted almost as an afterthought on the sixth round in 1985. Hilger's passing line in 1986 was 38 attempts, 19 completions, 266 yards, 1 touchdown, 1 interception. Not the stuff to conjure up thoughts of Snake Stabler, Jim Plunkett,

and Daryle Lamonica. But then the Raiders don't have much choice. The 40-year-old Plunkett isn't much more than a sideline tutor. Marc Wilson was an idea whose time never came. The Raiders may have to force feed Hilger, but they have pulled off wilder accomplishments in their history.

Not that all the Raiders' eggs will be in Rusty's basket. A trade is always possible. Major domo Al Davis explored the possibility of a deal for St. Louis's Neil Lomax, then rejected it. He admires Doug Williams, Washington's backup, and talked price with the Redskins. He worked out Ron Jaworski, the ex-Eagles' star. Then, in the draft, Steve Buerlein of Notre Dame was taken in the fourth round. Buerlein has intriguing possibilities. He played under a different quarterback coach each of his four seasons with the Irish. There were times in college when he displayed the skills of a latent star. The Raiders might bring it out of him.

The development or uncovering of some sort of viable passer is vital to Davis because he has already geared up his receiving corps. He traded with Green Bay for the Packers' troubled star, James Lofton, and also signed Canadian League standout Mervyn Fernandez. Lofton is 31, but he was selected to seven Pro Bowl squads during his career with the Pack. Fernandez, drafted by Los Angeles in 1983, was the Canadian League's most valu-

RAIDERS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—C. Bahr, 99 points on 36 extra points and 21 field goals . . . 6th
RUSHING—Allen, 759 yards on 208 carries, 3.6 avg., 5 TDs . . . 8th
PASSING—Plunkett, 133 of 252 attempts for 1,986 yards and 14 TDs . . . 8th
RECEIVING—Christensen, 95 receptions for 1,153 yards, 12.1 avg., 8 TDs . . . 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—McElroy, 7 for 105 yards, 15.0 avg. . . 3rd
PUNTING—Guy, 90 punts, 40.2 avg., longest 64 yards . . . 9th
PUNT RETURNS—Walker, 49 for 440 yards, 9.0 avg., 1 TD . . . 5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Adams, 27 for 573 yards, 21.2 avg. . . 10th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	15	SAN FRANCISCO (N)
	22	BUFFALO (N)
	30	AT DALLAS (N)
September	5	CHICAGO

1987 SCHEDULE

		1986 SCORES
September	13	At Green Bay . . . 28-17
	20	DETROIT . . . 28-17
	27	At Houston . . . 28-17
October	4	KANSAS CITY . . . 17-20
	12	At Denver (N) . . . 36-38
	18	SAN DIEGO . . . 17-13
	25	SEATTLE . . . 14-10
November	1	At New England . . . 28-17
	8	At Minnesota . . . 28-17
	15	At San Diego (N) . . . (OT) 37-31
	22	DENVER . . . 10-21
	30	At Seattle (N) . . . 0-37
December	6	BUFFALO . . . 28-17
	13	At Kansas City . . . 24-17
	20	CLEVELAND . . . 27-14
	27	CHICAGO . . . 28-17

able player in 1985. During his years up north, he caught 370 passes for 6,405 yards and 55 touchdowns. Dokie Williams is on his way to becoming a star. He caught eight touchdown passes among 43 receptions and averaged 19.6 yards. Beyond statistics, he made one of the gutsiest plays of the year against Philadelphia when he ran almost the length of the field, fought off two blockers, and tackled an Eagle interceptor on the Raiders' 4-yard line. Philly went on to win the game, but Williams established himself as a team leader with that play. Jessie Hester averaged 27.5 yards on 23 catches, six of which were for touchdowns.

Rod Barksdale averaged 24.1 yards on 18 receptions, including two touchdowns. The foremost target remains perennial all-pro tight end Todd Christensen, who caught 95 passes in 1986, eight for scores. In his Raider career, Christensen has 399 catches for 5,019 yards and 39 TDs.

Allen, despite a serious ankle injury, was L.A.'s offensive pinwheel again. He carried the ball 208 times for 759 yards, caught 46 passes for 453 yards, and scored seven touchdowns in a year in which he was hobbled. The Raiders received a blow when the new Secretary of the Navy, James H. Webb Jr., ruled that Napoleon McCallum could no longer moonlight as a halfback in silver and black. McCallum gained 536 yards as Allen's backup and also returned kickoffs and punts. The Raiders drafted Penn State fullback Steve Smith on the third round, insurance for Frank Hawkins, who played hurt a year ago. The situation is desperate, Davis used a late-round pick on Bo Jackson, on the wild chance that the Kansas City Royals would allow their top young player to perform on the football field during the offseason. The Raiders can't afford another serious injury to Allen.

The age problem in the offensive line was addressed by using the first two draft picks on huge tackles, John Clay of Missouri and Bruce Wilkerson of Tennessee. Clay, who

plays at more than 300 pounds, is in the Raider tradition of powerful, massive drive blockers. Wilkerson is more of a project, but L.A. is noted for its patience with young offensive linemen. The only veterans who started every game last year were Bruce Davis at left tackle and Mickey Marvin at right guard. The top player, however, is center Don Mosebar, who made the Pro Bowl, maintaining the previous tradition of Raider centers Jim Otto and Dave Dalby. Chris Riehm, who finished as the starting left guard, must battle veterans Curt Marsh and Charley Hannah to keep his position. Henry Lawrence, who lost his right tackle job, gives it another try against Shelby Jordan.

The Raiders led the conference in defense, so there isn't much worry there. The line generated 46 of the 63 sacks. The three-man front has Howie Long and Sean Jones at the ends with Bill Pickel at nose tackle. Jones was the top sacker in the AFC with 15½. Pickel has been in double-figure sacks in the last two years. Long, arguably, may be the best defensive lineman in the conference. When the Raiders use their four-man fronts, another good pass rusher, Greg Townsend, is brought in. Bob Buczkowski, the team's surprise first-round draft choice last year, will make his delayed debut. Mike Wise, who missed 10 games of his rookie season due to injury, is another possibility.

The linebacking is stable. Rod Martin and Jerry Robinson on the outside and Matt Millen and Reggie McKenzie inside started every game. Martin had five sacks. McKenzie led the team in tackles. Millen played more effectively when he lost some weight. Jeff Barnes doesn't start, but he remains one of the league's top special-teams' performers.

If there is a worry spot on defense it is the age of three of the backfield starters. Cornerback Mike Haynes is 34, although he made the Pro Bowl again. The other corner, Lester Hayes, is 32. So is strong safety Mike Davis. The only young regular is free safety Vann McElroy, 27. Sam Seale started five games when either Hayes or Haynes was injured. The Raiders traded for St. Louis's Lionel Washing-

ton during the winter. Stacey Toran started every game when Davis was injured. Brad Cochran, a third-round draftee a year ago, missed the entire season and may figure as a future corner.

Place-kicker Chris Bahr, who had 21 field goals in 28 tries, and punter Ray Guy keep those departments steady if unspectacular. Fulton Walker and Stefon Adams are skilled kick returners.

RAIDERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
44	Adams, Stefon	S	5-10	185	24	2	East Carolina
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	205	27	6	Southern Cal
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	170	34	12	Penn State
88	Barksdale, Rod	WR	6-1	180	25	2	Arizona
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	230	32	11	California
95	Buczkowski, Bob	DE	6-5	270	23	1	Pittsburgh
46	Christensen, Todd	TE	6-3	230	31	9	Brigham Young
38	Cochran, Brad	CB	6-3	200	24	1	Michigan
79	Davis, Bruce	T	6-6	280	31	8	UCLA
45	Davis, James	CB	6-0	190	30	6	Southern
36	Davis, Mike	S	6-3	200	31	9	Colorado
80	Fernandez, M.	WR	6-3	205	28	1	San Jose St.
94	Franks, Elvis	DE	6-4	265	30	8	Morgan State
8	Guy, Ray	P	6-3	200	38	15	Southern Miss.
73	Hannah, Charley	G	6-5	265	32	11	Alabama
27	Hawkins, Frank	RB	5-9	210	28	7	Nevada-Reno
37	Haynes, Lester	CB	6-0	200	31	11	Texas A&M
22	Haynes, Mike	CB	6-0	190	34	12	Arizona State
84	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	170	24	3	Florida State
12	Hilger, Rusty	QB	6-4	210	25	3	Oklahoma St.
31	Jensen, Derrick	TE	6-1	215	31	8	Arlington
99	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	265	25	4	Northeastern
74	Jordan, Shelby	T	6-7	280	35	11	Wash. (MO)
87	Junkin, Trey	TE	6-2	225	26	5	Louisiana Tech
59	Kimmel, Jamie	LB	6-3	235	26	2	Syracuse
33	King, Kenny	RB	5-11	205	30	8	Oklahoma
52	King, Linden	LB	6-4	245	32	10	Colorado St.
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	36	14	Florida A&M
51	Lewis, Bill	C	6-7	275	24	2	Nebraska
	Lotton, James	WR	6-3	197	31	10	Stanford
75	Long, Howie	DE	6-5	270	27	7	Villanova
11	Luther, Ed	QB	6-2	205	30	8	San Jose St.
60	Marsh, Curt	G	6-5	270	28	5	Washington
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	225	33	11	Southern Cal
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	265	32	11	Tennessee
7	Malthison, Bruce	QB	6-3	210	28	4	Nebraska
34	McCallum, N.	RB	6-2	215	24	2	Naval Acad.
49	McCloskey, Mike	TE	6-6	240	26	4	Penn State
26	McElroy, Vann	S	6-0	195	27	6	Baylor
54	McKenzie, Reggie	LB	6-1	240	24	3	Tennessee
23	McKinney, Odis	S	6-2	190	30	9	Colorado
55	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	245	29	8	Penn State
64	Miraldo, Dean	T	6-5	285	29	4	Utah
83	Moffett, Tim	WR	6-2	180	25	3	Mississippi
72	Mosebar, Don	C	6-6	275	26	5	Southern Cal
40	Mueller, Vance	RB	6-0	210	23	2	Occidental
81	Parker, Andy	TE	6-5	240	26	4	Utah
89	Pattison, Mark	WR	6-2	190	26	2	Washington
71	Pickel, Bill	DT	6-5	260	28	5	Rutgers
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	220	40	17	Stanford
68	Reinke, Jeff	G	6-5	275	25	1	Mankato State
77	Riehm, Chris	G	6-6	275	26	2	Ohio State
57	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	225	31	9	UCLA
69	Russell, Rusty	T	6-5	275	24	2	South Carolina
43	Seale, Sam	CB	5-9	180	25	4	Western St.
39	Strachan, Steve	RB	6-1	215	24	3	Boston College
30	Toran, Stacey	S	6-2	200	26	4	Notre Dame
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	250	26	5	TCU
41	Walker, Fulton	S	5-11	195	29	7	West Virginia
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	180	27	5	Tulane
67	Wheeler, Dwight	OL	6-3	285	32	7	Tenn. St.
85	Williams, Dokie	WR	5-11	180	27	5	UCLA
98	Willis, Mitch	DT	6-8	275	25	3	SMU
6	Wilson, Marc	QB	6-6	205	30	8	Brigham Young
90	Wise, Mike	DE	6-6	260	23	2	Cal-Davis

DRAFTED

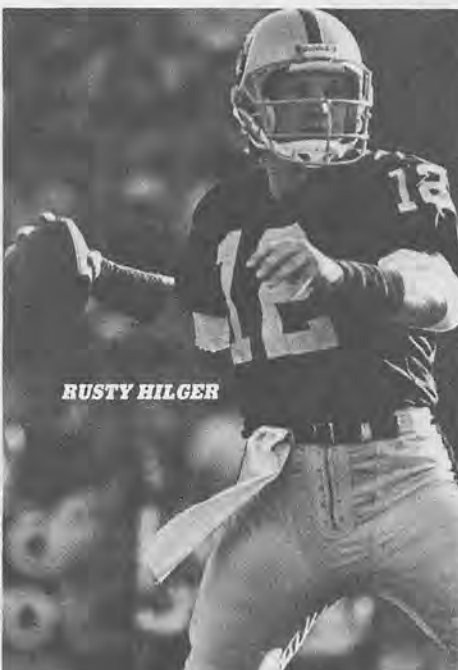
rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Clay, John	OT	6-5	298	Missouri
2	Wilkerson, Bruce	OT	6-5	272	Tennessee
3	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	232	Penn State
4	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-3	201	Notre Dame
7	Jackson, Bo	RB	6-1	222	Auburn
9	Eccles, Scott	TE	6-4	226	E. New Mexico
10	Harrison, Rob	RB	6-1	217	Sacramento St.
10	Gesek, John	OT	6-4	277	Sacramento St.
10	Ellis, Jim	LB	6-1	235	Boise State
11	McLemore, Chris	RB	6-0	226	Arizona
11	Perry, Mario	TE	6-4	222	Mississippi



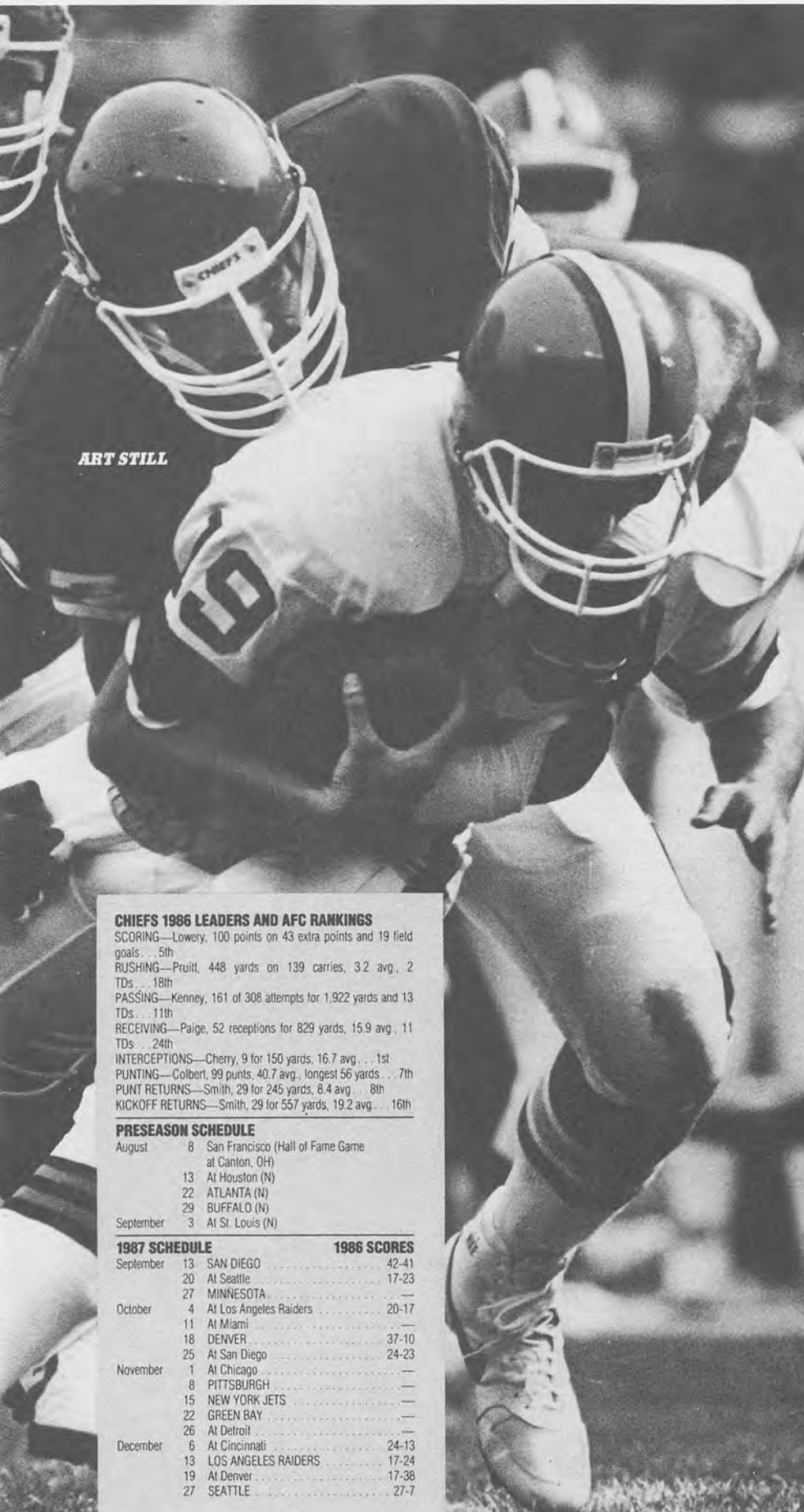
HOWIE LONG



TODD CHRISTENSEN



RUSTY HILGER



ART STILL

CHIEFS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lowery, 100 points on 43 extra points and 19 field goals. . . 5th
 RUSHING—Pruitt, 448 yards on 139 carries, 3.2 avg., 2 TDs. . . 18th
 PASSING—Kenney, 161 of 308 attempts for 1,922 yards and 13 TDs. . . 11th
 RECEIVING—Paige, 52 receptions for 829 yards, 15.9 avg., 11 TDs. . . 24th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Cherry, 9 for 150 yards, 16.7 avg. . . 1st
 PUNTING—Colbert, 99 punts, 40.7 avg., longest 56 yards. . . 7th
 PUNT RETURNS—Smith, 29 for 245 yards, 8.4 avg. . . 8th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Smith, 29 for 557 yards, 19.2 avg. . . 16th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 8 San Francisco (Hall of Fame Game at Canton, OH)
 13 At Houston (N)
 22 ATLANTA (N)
 29 BUFFALO (N)
 September 3 At St. Louis (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

		1986 SCORES
September	13 SAN DIEGO	42-41
	20 At Seattle	17-23
	27 MINNESOTA	—
October	4 At Los Angeles Raiders	20-17
	11 At Miami	—
	18 DENVER	37-10
	25 At San Diego	24-23
November	1 At Chicago	—
	8 PITTSBURGH	—
	15 NEW YORK JETS	—
	22 GREEN BAY	—
	26 At Detroit	—
December	6 At Cincinnati	24-13
	13 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	17-24
	19 At Denver	17-38
	27 SEATTLE	27-7

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

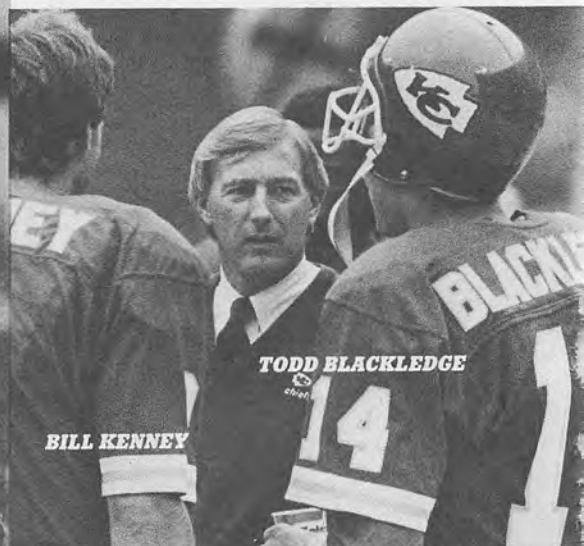
The good news is that the Chiefs have momentum. They made the playoffs for the first time in 16 years. They had their best won-lost record, 10-6, since they moved from old Municipal Stadium to Arrowhead Stadium.

The bad news is that their new coach, Frank Gansz, owes his job to a virtual player revolt. The Chiefs were so ecstatic about their unaccustomed playoff finish that they assembled their gripes, presented them to owner Lamar Hunt, and came away with the head of former coach John Mackovic. Gansz had resigned as special teams' coach after the playoffs. The Chiefs then asked him to return to lead the team on the field.

Gansz's principal task is obvious. The Chiefs finished last in the NFL in offense despite the 10 victories and the playoff berth. The running game, as usual, was dismal. The Chiefs win on defense and special teams. The problem with the defense isn't talent, but direction. Gansz lost two key defensive coaches after he got the head job. Walt Corey, the defensive coordinator and linebacker coach, took a similar job with Buffalo. Defensive backfield coach Doug Graber is the new defensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Bucs.

Gansz hopes to keep the Chiefs near their 1986 level, or push them beyond it, with the force of his strong personality and leadership, his acknowledged assets. "You have to believe," he says. "That's important in leadership. I think I can bring out the talents and energies of the players and coaches. I don't want our players to think in terms of limits."

The first of Gansz's football decisions was fraught with danger. He threw open the quarterback race in training camp, maintaining that he had three viable candidates in veteran Bill Kenney, developing Todd Blackledge, and unknown Frank Seurer. Bill Parcells of the New York Giants made a similar coaching decision early in his career and it nearly cost him his job. Kenney and Blackledge each had 5-3 won-lost records as starters a year ago. Seurer didn't even play during the regular season. Kenney passed for 1,922 yards and 13 touchdowns to 1,200 and 10 TDs for Blackledge, but Kenney had more interceptions, 11-6. Statistics, though, aren't on Gansz's mind. He says he wants a quarterback "who can audibilize us up and down the field."



TODD BLACKLEDGE

BILL KENNEY

Blackledge's main trouble may be that he was Mackovic's personal draft pick and protégé.

Gansz took the Chiefs in a different direction in the college draft. For the fourth consecutive season, Kansas City was either last or next-to-last in NFL ground-gaining. The Chiefs have played a one-note offensive tune for a long time. So they drafted Mutt and Jeff in the first two rounds last spring: 5-9, 186-pound running back Paul Palmer of Temple and 6-2, 250-pound Nigerian strong man Christian Okoye of Azusa Pacific. Palmer has been compared to James Brooks of Cincinnati, an all-purpose, scatback type of runner who catches the ball out of the backfield. Okoye scored four touchdowns in the Senior Bowl, an indication he could thrive in high-level competition. He has negatives, however. He is 26 years old, doesn't catch well, and fumbles a lot. Kansas City's leading rusher last year was veteran Mike Pruitt, who had 448 yards. Boyce Green, like Pruitt a Cleveland castoff, was second with 314 yards.

Even if the running attack is improved with the injection of fresh talent, the Chiefs can't afford to abandon their passing game. They still have some dangerous receivers. Stephane Paige had 11 touchdowns last year, 52 catches overall for a 15.9-yard average. Carlos Carson missed nearly half the season due to leg injuries but still averaged 23.7 yards on his 21 catches, four of which produced touchdowns. Henry Marshall caught 46 passes.

One of Gansz's principal jobs this season is to sort out a starting tight end from among Walt Arnold, Jonathon Hayes, and ex-Packer Paul Coffman. Which brings up the most interesting portion of the offense, the Chiefs' offensive line. "We're definitely going to build on the ability of the offensive linemen," says Gansz. "I want to have the finest offensive line in the National Football League." So why can't all of that ability knock defenders off the line of

scrimmage to spring a back occasionally? And what about the pass blocking? The Chiefs were equal-opportunity sieves last season. They allowed Kenney and Blackledge to be sacked 25 times apiece. Almost all the linemen have outstanding pedigrees. Brad Budde and Brian Jozwiak were first-round draft choices. Dave Lutz, the big tackle, was a second-rounder. John Alt, another tackle, was a first-rounder. Irv Eatman and Mark Adickes were USFL all-stars. But center Rick Donnalley, cast off by the Washington Redskins, was the most consistent lineman K.C. had.

Defensively, the picture brightens. End Art Still and nose tackle Bill Maas are all-pros. Maas had seven sacks, 54 tackles, forced two fumbles and recovered two more while clogging up the middle. Still had a team-leading 10½ sacks and 95 tackles. He has averaged more than 100 tackles a season for his career. Now Mike Bell returns from a stretch in jail (on a drug charge) to challenge Pete Koch for the other end position. Of the team's 44 sacks in '86, 23 were recorded by the line.

Two rookies started at linebacker last year. Dino Hackett was the man on the inside with 140 tackles, the most for a Chief in five years. Tim Cofield started on the outside and provided the ferocious blitzing to highlight the pass rush. He forced four fumbles and recorded five sacks. Scott Radevic is the other inside linebacker and now rookie Todd Howard of Texas A&M challenges Ken McAlister and Louis Cooper for a starting job on the outside.



GARY SPANI

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

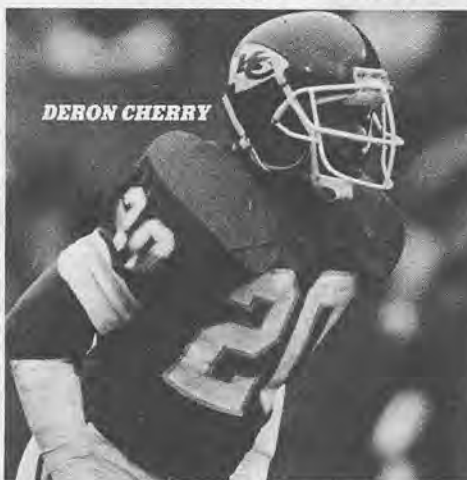
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	NFL exp	college
61	Adickes, Mark	G	6-4	274	26	2	Baylor
76	Alt, John	T	6-7	282	25	4	Iowa
87	Arnold, Walt	TE	6-3	224	29	8	New Mexico
91	Baldinger, Gary	DE	6-3	265	24	2	Wake Forest
77	Baldinger, Rich	OL	6-4	285	28	5	Wake Forest
58	Baugh, Tom	C	6-3	274	24	2	So. Illinois
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-4	259	30	7	Colorado State
81	Bergmann, Paul	TE	6-2	235	26	1	UCLA
14	Blackledge, Todd	QB	6-3	223	26	5	Penn State
71	Budde, Brad	G	6-4	271	29	8	Southern Cal
34	Burruss, Lloyd	SS	6-0	209	30	7	Maryland
88	Carson, Carlos	WR	5-11	184	29	8	LSU
20	Cherry, Deron	FS	5-11	196	28	7	Rutgers
22	Cocroft, Sherman	DB	6-1	195	26	3	San Jose State
84	Coffman, Paul	TE	6-3	225	31	10	Kansas State
54	Cofield, Tim	OLB	6-2	245	24	3	Elizabeth City St.
5	Colbert, Lewis	P	5-11	180	24	2	Auburn
55	Cooper, Louis	OLB	6-2	235	24	3	Western Carolina
51	Donnalley, Rick	C	6-2	270	29	7	North Carolina
75	Eatman, Irv	T	6-7	293	26	2	UCLA
80	Fox, Chas	WR	5-11	180	24	2	Furman
48	Garron, Andre	RB	5-11	193	23	1	New Hampshire
40	Green, Boyce	RB	5-11	215	27	5	Carson Newman
98	Griffin, Leonard	DE	6-4	252	25	2	Grambling
56	Hackett, Dino	ILB	6-3	225	23	2	Appalachian St.
82	Hancock, Anthony	WR	6-0	204	27	6	Tennessee
92	Harris, Bob	LB	6-2	223	27	4	Auburn
86	Harry, Emile	WR	5-11	175	24	2	Stanford
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	236	25	3	Iowa
44	Heard, Herman	RB	5-10	190	26	4	So. Colorado
23	Hill, Greg	CB	6-1	199	26	5	Oklahoma State
93	Holle, Eric	DL	6-5	265	27	4	Texas
73	Jozwiak, Brian	T	6-5	308	24	2	West Virginia
9	Kenney, Bill	QB	6-4	211	32	9	No. Colorado
74	Koch, Pete	DE	6-6	275	25	4	Maryland
70	Lathrop, Kit	DE	6-5	261	31	4	Arizona State
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	192	27	5	Grambling
8	Lowery, Nick	PK	6-4	189	31	8	Dartmouth
72	Lutz, David	T	6-5	295	28	5	Georgia Tech
63	Maas, Bill	NT	6-5	268	25	4	Pittsburgh
89	Marshall, Henry	WR	6-2	216	33	12	Missouri
94	McAlister, Ken	OLB	6-5	230	27	5	San Francisco
32	Moniaty, Larry	RB	6-1	237	29	5	Notre Dame
83	Paige, Stephane	WR	6-2	183	26	5	Fresno State
57	Paul, Whitney	OLB	6-4	219	34	12	Colorado
96	Pearson, Aaron	ILB	6-0	236	23	2	Mississippi St.
24	Pearson, J.C.	CB	5-11	183	24	2	Washington
43	Pruitt, Mike	RB	6-0	235	33	12	Purdue
97	Radevic, Scott	ILB	6-3	242	25	4	Penn State
30	Robinson, Mark	S	5-11	206	25	4	Penn State
31	Ross, Kevin	CB	5-9	182	25	4	Temple
10	Seurer, Frank	QB	6-1	195	25	2	Kansas
47	Smith, Chris	RB	6-0	222	24	1	Notre Dame
42	Smith, Jeff	RB	5-9	201	25	3	Nebraska
59	Spani, Gary	ILB	6-2	229	31	10	Kansas State
67	Still, Art	DE	6-7	255	32	10	Kentucky

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Palmer, Paul	RB	5-10	185	Temple
2	Okoye, Christian	RB	6-2	255	Azusa Pacific
3	Howard, Todd	LB	6-2	235	Texas A&M
5	Taylor, Kilrick	WR	5-11	181	Washington St.
7	Hudson, Doug	QB	6-3	205	Nicholls State
8	Clemmons, Michael	RB	5-5	166	William & Mary
9	Watts, Randy	DE	6-6	279	Catawba
10	Evans, James	RB	6-0	220	Southern U.
11	Richardson, Craig	WR	5-11	189	E. Washington
12	Holmes, Bruce	LB	6-2	220	Minnesota



DINO HACKETT



DERON CHERRY

The Chiefs may have the best secondary in the NFL. Kansas City has more interceptions, 118, in the last four years than any team. The starters produced two Pro Bowlers, free safety Deron Cherry and strong safety Lloyd Burruss, as well as the team's MVP, cornerback Albert Lewis. The other corner, Kevin Ross, plays up to their high standards. Cherry led the AFC with nine interceptions. Of Burruss's five steals, three were returned for touchdowns.

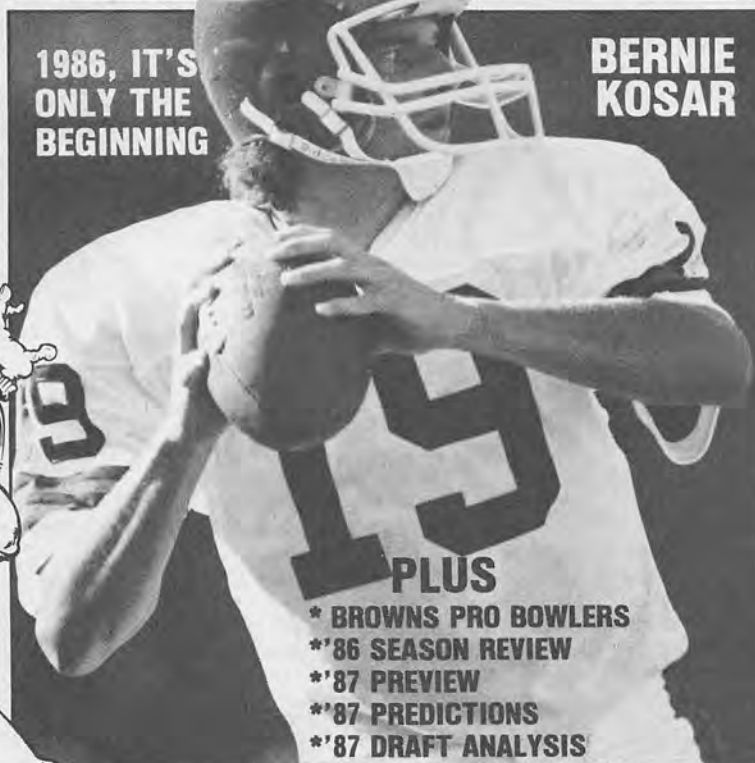
The defense accounted for six touchdowns and the special teams five on the Chiefs' march to a playoff berth. Using a number of starters on the special teams—Cherry scored two special-teams' TDs, Burruss and Ross one each—Gansz engineered 10 blocked kicks and two fumble recoveries. Nick Lowery kicked 19 field goals in 26 tries and Lewis Colbert placed 23 punts inside the 20. Green averaged 25.4 yards on kickoff returns. Ed Beckman replaces Gansz as special teams' coach. It will be a tough act to follow.

BROWNS

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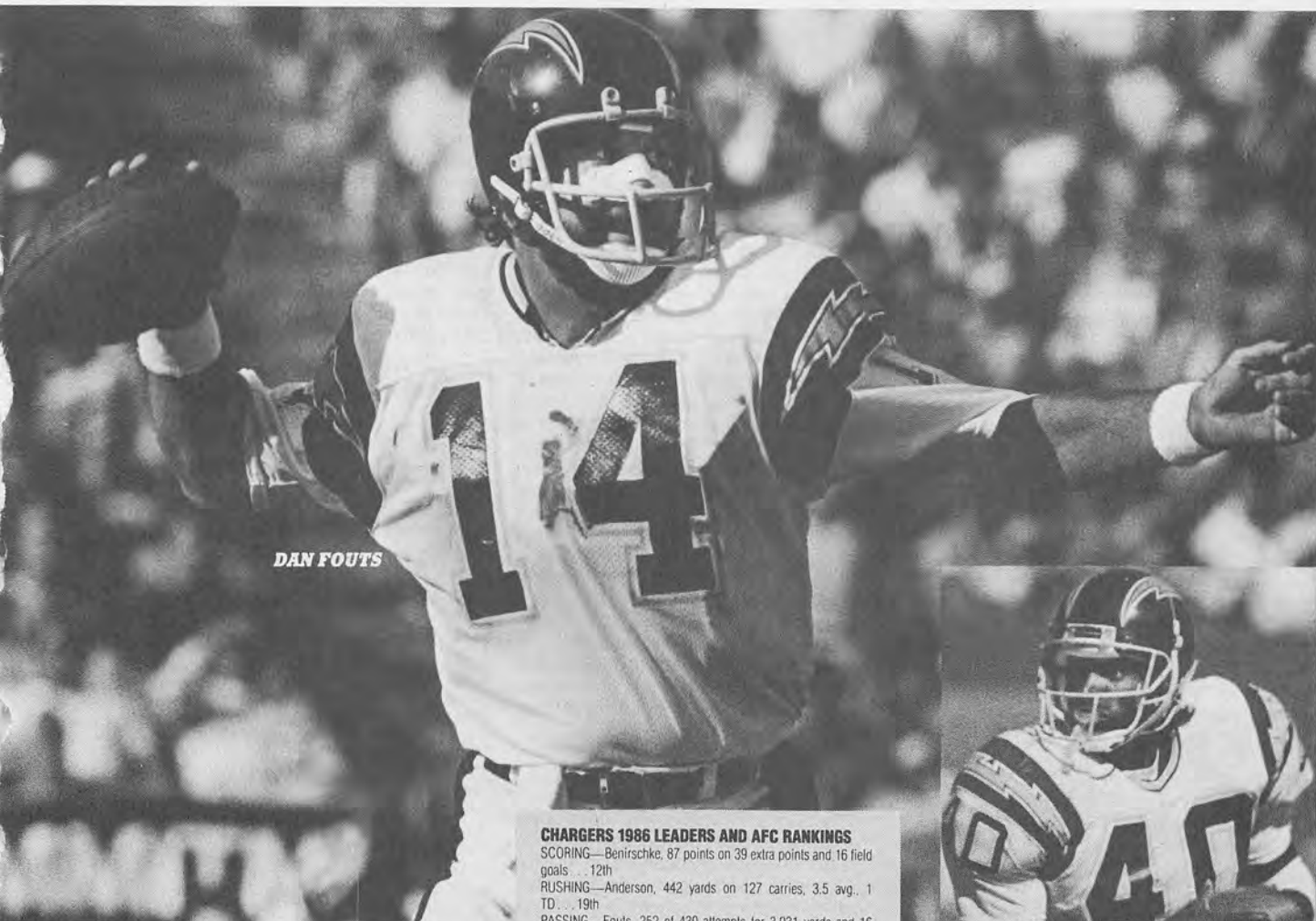
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DAN FOUTS

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Say goodbye to Air Coryell. The days of aim and fire in Jack Murphy Stadium appear to be over. Al Saunders, the man who succeeded Don Coryell as head coach of the Chargers, speaks of "balance" and "defense" when he discusses the future of his team. Dan Fouts still wears a helmet decorated with those familiar gold lightning bolts, but it seems that Fouts is closer to eventual induction into the pro football Hall of Fame than he is to another 4,000-yard season.

The changing of the guard at quarterback appears to be only a matter of time. Mark Herrmann and Tom Flick both received some playing time in 1986, and the Chargers were interested in dealing for Neil Lomax of St. Louis in the spring. The injuries are coming more frequently for Fouts, too. He suffered a concussion and a broken nose last year, forcing him to miss four games. The Chargers may be able to get by with Fouts for another year, provided Saunders is willing. After all, the 15-year veteran did pass for 3,031 yards and 16 touchdowns a year ago, although he suffered 22 interceptions.

The Chargers are geared to a shorter-range passing game now. Kellen Winslow, their great tight end, returned from a serious knee injury that might have ended his career, but he is no longer the deep threat he once was. The Chargers used their No. 1 draft pick to add another tight end, Rod Bernstine of Texas A&M. Last year's leading receiver was a back,

CHARGERS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Benirschke, 87 points on 39 extra points and 16 field goals . . . 12th
 RUSHING—Anderson, 442 yards on 127 carries, 3.5 avg., 1 TD . . . 19th
 PASSING—Fouts, 252 of 430 attempts for 3,031 yards and 16 TDs . . . 10th
 RECEIVING—Anderson, 80 receptions for 871 yards, 10.9 avg., 8 TDs . . . 4th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Byrd, 5 for 45 yards, 9.0 avg. . . 9th
 PUNTING—Mojsiejenko, 72 punts, 42.0 avg., longest 62 yards . . . 4th
 PUNT RETURNS—Anderson, 25 for 227 yards, 9.1 avg. . . 4th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Anderson, 24 for 482 yards, 20.1 avg. . . 13th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	15	DALLAS (N)
	23	L.A. RAMS (N)
	27	At San Francisco (N)
September	4	N.Y. JETS (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	At Kansas City	41-42
	20	ST. LOUIS	—
	27	SEATTLE	24-34
October	4	At Cincinnati	—
	11	At Tampa Bay	—
	18	At Los Angeles Raiders	13-17
	25	KANSAS CITY	23-24
November	1	CLEVELAND	17-47
	8	At Indianapolis	17-3
	15	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)	(OT) 31-37
	22	At Seattle	7-33
	29	DENVER	14-31
December	6	At Houston	27-0
	13	PITTSBURGH	—
	20	INDIANAPOLIS	—
	27	At Denver	9-3

Gary Anderson, who caught 80 passes. All that points to a controlled passing game. With Charlie Joiner retired, Wes Chandler is the only long-distance receiver prominent in San Diego's plans.

The changing of the Chargers is a joint project of Saunders, who took over the team when it was mired in a seven-game losing streak



GARY ANDERSON

after an opening-game victory last year, and Steve Ortmyer, the new director of football operations. He had spent eight years with the Raiders and is schooled in their way of administering a football team, which isn't bad. The Saunders' way manifested itself in the second half of last season. The Chargers' time of possession increased by 2½ minutes a game, their success on third down increased from 37 to 47 percent, they had nine fewer turnovers, and the pass-completion percentage went from 53.6 to 59.4 percent. The won-lost record showed a modest improvement, from 1-7 to 3-5. Three of the losses in the second half of the season were by a margin of six points or fewer.

Ironically, San Diego's best chance for improvement is with its defense, which has been comically inept for years. But last season the Chargers actually finished ahead of four other AFC teams in total defense. They were third in the conference against the run. Maybe years of drafting to fortify the defense is about to pay off. For instance, the Chargers now attack opposing passers with ferocious enthusiasm.

Defensive end Lee Williams had 15 sacks. Billy Ray Smith, switched from inside to outside linebacker, grew comfortable in his new position immediately, recording 11 sacks. Rookie end Leslie O'Neil had 12½ sacks before his season ended with three games still to play due to a serious knee injury. San Diego used its second and third draft choices to further bolster the defense, selecting Southern California cornerback Louis Brock and Louisiana State lineman Karl Wilson. The selection of Brock, son of the former Cardinal baseball great, was a risk since he flunked several physical exams administered by other teams. He is said to have tendinitis in both knees.

The Chargers put their defensive line, for the most part, in the hands of their rehabilitation experts. If everything comes out all right, Williams will team with O'Neil at the end positions. O'Neil's injury had the Chargers worried about his future. Both top nose tackles, Chuck Ehin and Terry Unrein, are coming back from the injured list. Reserves Dee Hardison and Earl Wilson may come in handy.

Thomas Benson started all 16 games at inside linebacker. Gary Plummer, who starred for the Oakland Invaders, was signed after the USFL ceased play and became a fixture at the other inside position. Woodrow Lowe begins his 12th season as a starting outside backer, but he may face competition from Ty Allert

and USFL picks Andy Hawkins and Angelo Snipes. The major reinforcement is Pro Bowler Chip Banks, who was traded by Cleveland.

The Chargers must get more stability in their secondary than they had a year ago. Things began on a negative note when starting cornerbacks Danny Walters and John Hendy were knocked out before the season began. Hendy had been an all-rookie player the year before. After that it was one big series of changes. Strong safety Jeff Dale was the only man to start all 16 games at the same position in the backfield. He finished second on the team with 101 tackles. He also had four interceptions. Gill Byrd started at free safety, then was switched to cornerback. Kenny Taylor, signed as a free agent in the third week of the season, wound up as a starting corner. Vencie Glenn, acquired from New England in a midseason trade, finished as the starting free safety. Defensive coordinator Ron Lynn thinks Glenn can be an NFL star.

Chandler caught 56 passes for 728 yards, a modest 11.4-yard average, and just four touchdowns. It's not like the old days. Joiner is now the receivers' coach and his foremost project will be to coax Trumaine Johnson into becoming the star he was supposed to be when he came out of Grambling and the USFL to the Chargers. Johnson had 30 catches for a 13.3-yard average and just one touchdown. The Chargers traded with Houston for possession receiver Tim Smith.

Look for the new-styled San Diego passing game to feature Anderson and the tight ends. Winslow caught 45 of his 64 passes in the last nine games under Saunders and ended up as a Pro Bowl alternate. Pete Holohan and Eric Seivers are veterans who can be an integral part of a control passing game. Anderson accounted for 2,026 yards, second in the NFL to Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams, but just 442 yards of them came on the ground. Still, that put him 76 yards ahead of the team's No. 2 runner, Curtis Adams. Tim Spencer, mostly a blocker and short-yardage specialist, added 350 yards and six touchdowns. Buford McGee scored seven touchdowns in the first nine games before his season was ended by knee injuries.

The feature of the line is the development of left tackle Jim Lachey, who made the all-rook-

ie team. The rest of the group is well-seasoned, with Gary Kowalski at right tackle, Sam Claphan and Dennis McKnight at guards, and Don Macek, who had one of his best years, at center. Tackle James FitzPatrick was a major disappointment. The Chargers had him on the trade block during the offseason despite investing a first-round draft pick on him in 1986.

Anderson averaged 20.1 yards on kickoffs returns and 9.2 on punt returns. The worry is that he may be worn to a nub. Place-kicker Rolf Benirschke had a so-so 16-for-25 field-goal record. Ralf Mojsiejenko averaged 42 yards and 15 of his punts landed inside the 20-yard line.

CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	exp.	college
42	Adams, Curtis	RB	5-11	194	25	1	Central Michigan
56	Allert, Ty	LB	6-2	233	24	1	Texas
40	Anderson, Gary	RB	6-0	180	26	2	Arkansas
	Banks, Chip	LB	6-4	233	28	6	Southern Cal
6	Benirschke, Rolf	K	6-1	180	32	9	Cal-Davis
57	Benson, Thomas	LB	6-2	235	26	3	Oklahoma
22	Byrd, Gill	CB	5-11	194	26	4	San Jose State
89	Chandler, Wes	WR	6-0	188	31	9	Florida
77	Claphan, Sam	T	6-6	288	31	6	Oklahoma
37	Dale, Jeffrey	SS	6-3	213	25	2	LSU
61	Dallator, Ken	G	6-4	277	28	2	Minnesota
20	Davis, Wayne	CB	5-11	175	24	2	Indiana State
75	DiGiacomo, Curt	G	6-4	275	24	1	Arizona
78	Ehin, Chuck	NT	6-5	257	26	4	Brigham Young
52	Fellows, Mark	LB	6-1	233	24	1	Montana State
70	FitzPatrick, James	T	6-7	302	23	1	Southern Cal
12	Flick, Tom	QB	6-3	191	29	3	Washington
14	Fouts, Dan	QB	6-3	204	36	14	Oregon
25	Glenn, Vencie	FS	6-0	183	23	1	Indiana State
92	Hardison, Dee	DE	6-4	274	31	9	North Carolina
59	Hawkins, Andy	OLB	6-2	230	29	5	Texas A & I
29	Hendy, John	CB	5-11	193	25	2	Long Beach St
9	Herrmann, Mark	QB	6-4	199	28	6	Purdue
88	Holohan, Pete	TE	6-4	232	28	6	Notre Dame
27	Hunter, Daniel	CB	5-11	180	25	2	Henderson St
26	James, Lionel	RB	5-6	170	25	3	Auburn
83	Johnson, Trumaine	WR	6-1	191	27	2	Grambling St
68	Kowalski, Gary	G	6-6	280	27	3	Boston College
74	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	284	24	2	Ohio State
63	Leonard, Jim	C	6-3	270	30	6	Santa Clara
51	Lowe, Woodrow	OLB	6-0	229	33	11	Alabama
62	Macek, Don	C	6-2	270	33	11	Boston College
21	McGee, Buford	RB	6-0	206	27	3	Mississippi
60	McKnight, Dennis	OL	6-3	270	28	5	Drake
2	Mojsiejenko, Ralf	K	6-2	210	24	2	Michigan State
90	Moore, Mack	DE	6-4	258	28	2	Texas A & M
87	Moore, Malcolm	TE	6-3	236	26	1	Southern Cal
55	Nelson, Derrin	ILB	6-2	239	29	4	Nebraska
91	O'Neil, Leslie	DE	6-4	255	23	1	Oklahoma St
50	Plummer, Gary	ILB	6-2	230	27	1	California
85	Seivers, Eric	TE	6-4	235	29	6	Maryland
97	Simmons, Tony	DE	6-4	268	25	2	Tennessee
54	Smith, Billy Ray	OLB	6-3	236	26	4	Arkansas
	Smith, Tim	WR	6-2	206	30	8	Nebraska
52	Snipes, Angelo	OLB	6-0	215	24	1	West Georgia
43	Spencer, Tim	FB	6-1	227	27	2	Ohio State
33	Sullivan, John L.	CB	6-1	190	26	1	California
24	Taylor, Ken	CB	6-1	186	24	2	Oregon State
98	Unrein, Terry	NT	6-5	283	25	1	Colorado State
72	Walker, Jeff	G	6-4	295	24	1	Memphis State
23	Walters, Danny	CB	6-1	200	27	4	Arkansas
81	Ware, Timmie	WR	5-10	171	24	1	Southern Cal
99	Williams, Lee	DE	6-5	262	25	3	Bethune-Cook
93	Wilson, Earl	DE	6-4	280	29	2	Kentucky
80	Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-5	250	30	8	Missouri
96	Winter, Blaise	DE	6-3	274	25	2	Syracuse
30	Wyatt, Kevin	CB	5-10	190	23	1	Arkansas

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Bernsline, Rod	TE	6-3	247	Texas A & M
2	Brock, Louis	CB	5-11	165	Southern Cal
3	Wilson, Karl	DE	6-4	251	LSU
4	Vlasic, Mark	DB	6-3	206	Iowa
5	Jones, Nelson	DB	6-0	190	N. C. State
7	Holland, Jamie	WR	6-1	186	Ohio State
8	MacEskey, Joe	OT	6-7	289	UTEP
8	Brown, Ron	LB	6-4	235	Southern Cal
9	Wilcher, Thomas	RB	5-10	188	Michigan
10	Anderson, Anthony	DB	6-2	205	Grambling
11	Goebel, Joe	C	6-5	268	UCLA
12	Greenwood, Marcus	RB	6-0	210	UCLA



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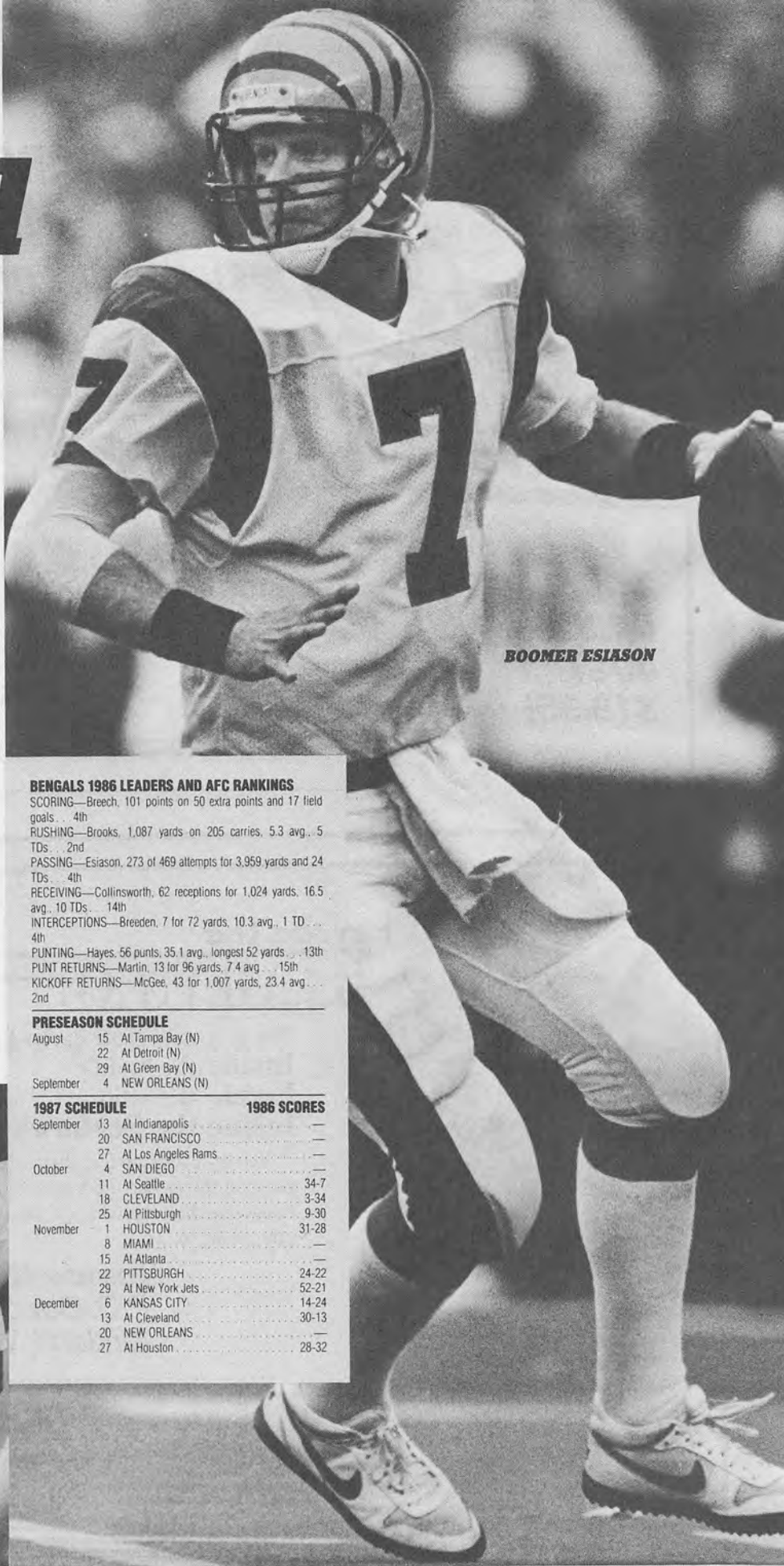
CINCINNATI BENGALS

Some year Cincinnati is going to do something other than come close. This may be the year. The Bengals have the most explosive offense in the NFL, as well as the most productive, and that should be worth something. For the last three years, Sam Wyche's entire coaching tenure with the team, the Bengals just missed making the playoffs. Coming close is getting a little old.

The Bengals were a consistent football team, compiling 5-3 won-lost records in both the first and second halves last season. What did them in was their failure to win two big games in the stretch and, overall, their flabby defense. The two must games were against Denver and Cleveland. The Bengals lost to the eventual AFC champions by six points in Denver. There was no doubt about the outcome when the hated Browns came to Cincinnati. Cleveland drubbed the Bengals, 34-3. Circle December 13 on your calendar for this season. That is the date of the Bengals' trip to Cleveland, which could be decisive in the AFC Central.

Fixing the defense may be a difficult task. The Bengals' offense averaged 25.5 points per game last season. But eight times the opposition scored more than that against Cincinnati. Four defensive starters, cornerback Louis Breeden, linebacker Reggie Williams, and ends Eddie Edwards and Ross Browner, are 33 years old. Dick LeBeau, the defensive coordinator, must decide whether they are capable of one last hurrah, or whether they are already over the hill. If those four gray panthers could manage to contribute, the Bengals could be a Super Bowl contender.

Breeden led the team in interceptions a year ago and Wyche seems confident about him. "He continues to maintain his speed,"



BOOMER ESIASON

BENGALS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Breech, 101 points on 50 extra points and 17 field goals. . . 4th
RUSHING—Brooks, 1,087 yards on 205 carries, 5.3 avg. . . 5 TDs. . . 2nd
PASSING—Esiason, 273 of 469 attempts for 3,959 yards and 24 TDs. . . 4th
RECEIVING—Collinsworth, 62 receptions for 1,024 yards, 16.5 avg. . . 10 TDs. . . 14th
INTERCEPTIONS—Breeden, 7 for 72 yards, 10.3 avg. . . 1 TD. . . 4th
PUNTING—Hayes, 56 punts, 35.1 avg., longest 52 yards. . . 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 13 for 96 yards, 7.4 avg. . . 15th
KICKOFF RETURNS—McGee, 43 for 1,007 yards, 23.4 avg. . . 2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 At Tampa Bay (N)
22 At Detroit (N)
29 At Green Bay (N)
September 4 NEW ORLEANS (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

		1986 SCORES
September	13 At Indianapolis	.....
	20 SAN FRANCISCO	.....
	27 At Los Angeles Rams	.....
October	4 SAN DIEGO	.....
	11 At Seattle	..... 34-7
	18 CLEVELAND	..... 3-34
	25 At Pittsburgh	..... 9-30
November	1 HOUSTON	..... 31-28
	8 MIAMI	.....
	15 At Atlanta	.....
	22 PITTSBURGH	..... 24-22
	29 At New York Jets	..... 52-21
December	6 KANSAS CITY	..... 14-24
	13 At Cleveland	..... 30-13
	20 NEW ORLEANS	.....
	27 At Houston	..... 28-32



TIM KRUMBIE

says the coach. "I think he had one of his better seasons in 1986 and shows no signs of losing a step." Williams remains one of the team's spiritual leaders. No linebacker was drafted last spring to challenge him. Neither Browner nor Edwards had a satisfactory season in '86. Each recorded 6½ sacks. Both were inconsistent. Jim Skow, a second-year pro, will press Browner. The Bengals made Jason Buck, the fast pass rusher from Brigham Young, their first-round draft choice in order to give Edwards a shove.

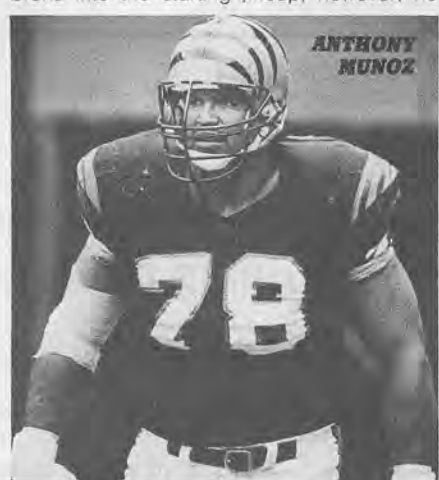
Offensively, the key man is quarterback Boomer Esiason, one of the foremost big-play passers in the NFL and a Pro Bowler last year. Esiason threw for 3,959 yards and 24 touchdowns. As Wyche says, "He seems to have the knack for making something happen." Esiason has a terrifying group of targets. Cris Collinsworth had another big season, catching 62 passes for 1,024 yards, 10 touchdowns, and a 16.5-yard average. Eddie Brown added 58 catches for 964 yards and a 16.6-yard average. Tight end Rodney Holman caught 40 (14.3). This year the fleet Tim McGee, a first-round selection in 1986, should be more involved in the passing attack. McGee, in limited playing time, caught 16 passes for a 17.3-yard average.

The man most responsible for Cincinnati's status as the leading overall offensive team in the NFL, however, is little running back James Brooks. Possibly the best small back in the NFL, Brooks accounted for 1,773 yards run-

ing and catching. He carried the ball 205 times for 1,087 yards and made 54 receptions for 686 yards. Brooks averaged 5.3 yards on the ground and 12.7 yards as a receiver, a high average for a pass catcher coming out of the backfield. "He's also an outstanding blocker," adds Wyche.

Larry Kinnebrew and Stanley Wilson provide less dramatic but important contributions to the running attack. Each scored eight touchdowns last season. Kinnebrew carried 131 times, mostly heavy-duty stuff, and averaged four yards a carry. Wilson averaged 5.6 yards on 68 carries and Bill Johnson, a USFL refugee, averaged 5.8 yards on 39 carries.

Of course, running the ball for Cincinnati is more comfortable than it is for most NFL teams, considering the quality of the Bengals' line. The guards, Max Montoya and Bruce Kozerski, are the featherweights of the unit at 275 pounds apiece. Tackle Anthony Munoz weighs 278, center Dave Rimington 288, and tackle Joe Walter 290. Munoz and Montoya made the Pro Bowl. There is depth, too, with



convincing the Cincinnati brass that he could develop into a top inside player. Carl Zander is a solid man at the other inside position. Reggie Williams is the fourth starter. Kiki Ayala, who came from the USFL last year, is a valuable blitzing and specialty linebacker.

David Fulcher started as a rookie strong safety and hit like a linebacker, living up to the reputation he carried from Arizona State. Now the plan is to shift Fulcher to free safety, which would promote another bomber, Barney Bussey, who came to the Bengals from the USFL. Opposite Breeden at the other corner is Lewis Billups, who broke into the lineup as a rookie. He is a strong cover man. There is depth, too. Bobby Kemp and Robert Jackson once started at safety; Ray Horton used to be a first-string corner and functions as a nickel back.

There could be a number of defensive alterations due to the draft, as well as developing young players. The second-round pick, Eric Thomas of Tulane, could figure as a nickel back or as immediate competition for Breeden. Indiana back Leonard Bell and Arizona

State end Skip McClendon came in the third round. The top offensive picks were Clemson tight end Jim Riggs and Kentucky running back Mark Logan.

Punt returner Mike Martin was injured a good deal, but Horton stepped in and averaged 10.1 yards on 11 returns. McGee averaged 23.4 on kickoffs, including a 94-yarder. Stanford Jennings averaged 21.4 as the Bengals had one of the most dangerous return units in the league. Jim Breech, the place-kicker, had a poor year, 17-for-32 in field goals, and the Bengals may send out a search party to locate his successor. The identity of the punter may be unknown until opening day. One of the Bengals' most important offseason moves was no move at all. Offensive line coach Jim McNally, among the most admired in the NFL, turned down an offer from the Dallas Cowboys to stay in Cincinnati.

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BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht	wt	age	exp	college
14	Anderson, Ken	QB	6-3	212	38	17	Augustana (IL)
53	Barker, Leo	LB	6-2	227	28	4	New Mexico St.
24	Billups, Lewis	CB	5-11	190	24	2	North Alabama
74	Blados, Brian	G	6-5	295	25	4	North Carolina
55	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	235	27	4	Illinois
3	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	161	31	9	California
34	Breeden, Louis	CB	5-11	185	34	10	N.C. Central
21	Brooks, James	RB	5-10	182	29	7	Auburn
81	Brown, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	25	3	Miami
79	Browner, Ross	DE	6-3	265	33	10	Notre Dame
27	Bussey, Barney	S	6-0	195	25	2	S.C. State
80	Collinsworth, Cris	WR	6-5	192	28	6	Florida
93	Deayala, Kiki	LB	6-1	225	26	2	Texas
67	Douglas, David	T	6-4	280	24	2	Tennessee
73	Edwards, Eddie	DE	6-5	256	33	11	Miami, Fla.
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-4	220	26	4	Maryland
33	Fulcher, David	S	6-3	228	23	2	Arizona State
11	Gaynor, Doug	QB	6-2	205	24	2	Long Beach St.
71	Hammerstein, Mike	DE	6-4	270	24	2	Michigan
95	Herrmann, James	DE	6-6	255	25	1	Brigham Young
43	Hillary, Ira	WR	5-11	190	25	1	South Carolina
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	27	6	Tulane
20	Horton, Ray	CB	5-11	190	27	5	Washington
37	Jackson, Robert	S	5-10	186	29	7	Central Mich.
36	Jennings, Stanford	RB	6-1	205	25	4	Furman
30	Johnson, Bill	RB	6-2	230	27	3	Arkansas State
84	Kattus, Eric	TE	6-5	235	24	2	Michigan
58	Kelly, Joe	LB	6-2	227	23	2	Washington
26	Kemp, Bobby	S	6-0	191	28	7	Cal-Fullerton
90	King, Emanuel	LB	6-4	251	24	3	Alabama
28	Kinnebrew, Larry	RB	6-1	258	28	5	Tennessee State
64	Kozerski, Bruce	C	6-4	275	25	4	Holy Cross
86	Kreider, Steve	WR	6-3	192	29	9	Lehigh
69	Krumrie, Tim	NT	6-2	262	27	5	Wis.-Madison
88	Martin, Mike	WR	5-10	186	27	5	Illinois
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	175	23	2	Tennessee
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	275	31	9	UCLA
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	278	29	8	USC
75	Peimners, Bruce	T	6-7	280	27	4	Iowa State
50	Rimington, Dave	C	6-3	288	25	5	Nebraska
96	Shaw, Jeff	NT	6-1	280	25	1	Salem College
56	Simpkins, Ron	LB	6-1	235	29	7	Michigan
70	Skow, Jim	DE	6-3	250	24	2	Nebraska
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-6	290	24	3	Texas Tech
51	White, Leon	LB	6-2	236	24	2	Brigham Young
57	Williams, Reggie	LB	6-0	228	33	12	Dartmouth
32	Wilson, Stanley	RB	5-10	210	26	4	Oklahoma
91	Zander, Carl	LB	6-2	235	24	3	Tennessee

DRAFTIES

rd	name	pos.	ht	wt	college
1	Buck, Jason	DE	6-5	260	Brigham Young
2	Thomas, Eric	DB	5-11	175	Tulane
3	Bell, Leonard	DB	5-11	201	Indiana
3	McClendon, Skip	DE	6-6	257	Arizona State
4	Riggs, Jim	TE	6-5	245	Clemson
5	Logan, Mark	RB	5-11	207	Kentucky
5	Home, Greg	P	6-0	188	Arkansas
6	Gordon, Sonny	DB	5-11	195	Ohio State
7	Thatcher, Chris	OG	6-4	275	Lafayette
8	Wilcoits, Solomon	DB	5-11	180	Colorado
9	Raddatz, Graig	LB	6-3	240	Wisconsin
10	McCluskey, David	RB	6-1	218	Georgia
11	Warne, Jim	OT	6-7	315	Arizona State
12	Hollifield, John	RB	6-0	193	West Virginia

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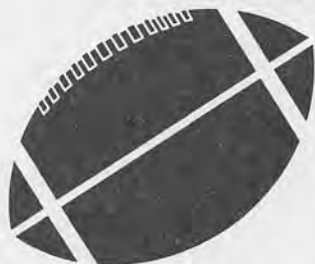
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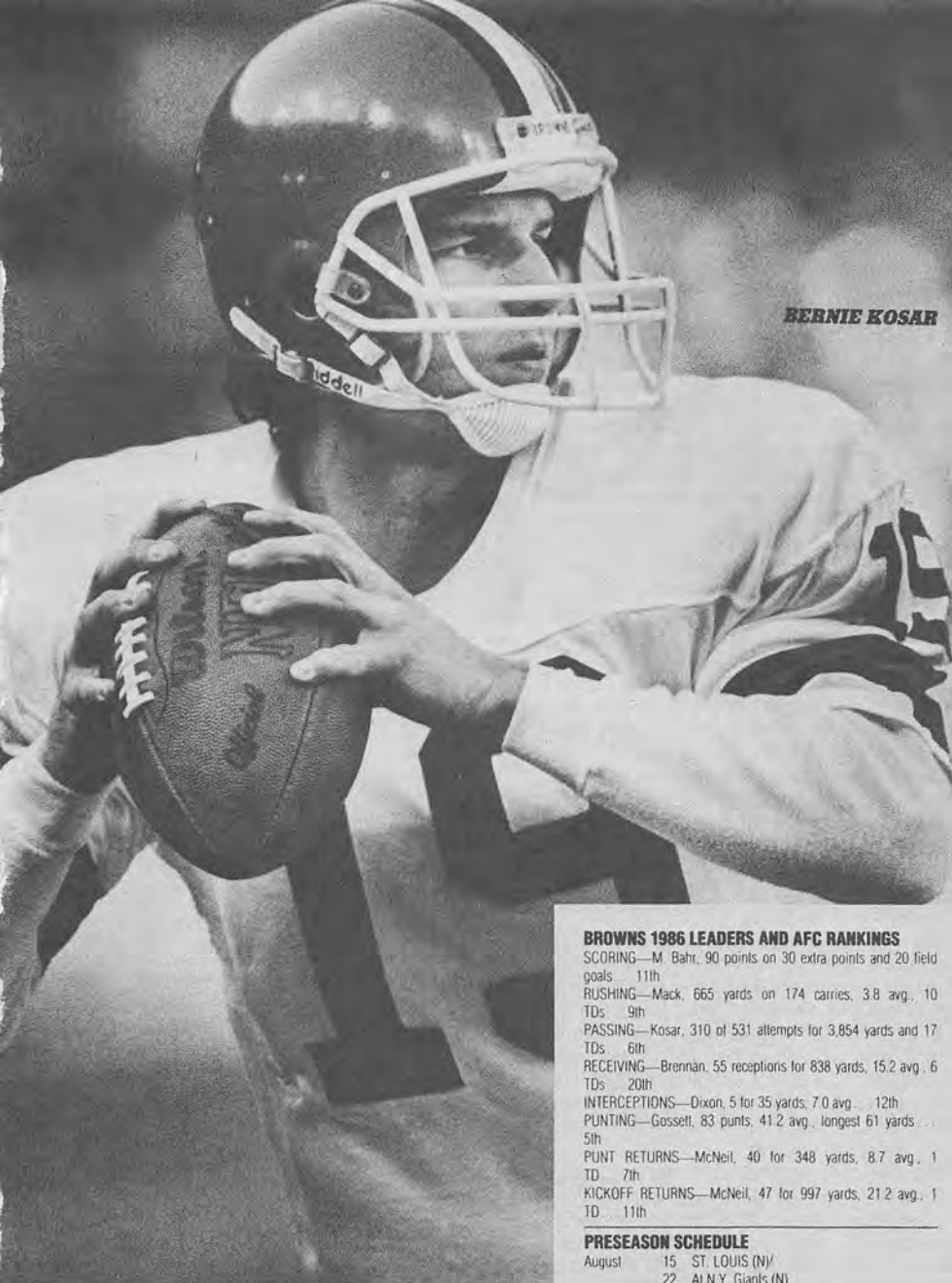
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BERNIE KOSAR

mer head coach of the Jacksonville team in the USFL, to raise the standards of the Cleveland passing game. He did. "He has a great understanding of offense and passing philosophy," says Kosar.

The Cleveland offense may bear a far different look in 1987. That is because the team's two dominating backs of the previous season, Earnest Byner and Kevin Mack, were injured for most of the season. Byner missed the last nine games with torn ligaments in his ankle. Mack missed four games and parts of two others after he suffered a shoulder injury. Nevertheless, he led the team with 665 yards.

When Byner and Mack were injured, the Browns went with three and sometimes four wide receivers, most of them young. Three kid pass catchers totaled 134 receptions. Brian Brennan caught 55 for a 15.2-yard average and six touchdowns. Rookie Webster Slaughter caught 40 for 577 yards and four TDs and Reggie Langhorne caught 39 for a 17.4 average. With Byner and Mack out, Kosar found utility back Herman Fontenot 47 times for 559 yards. Fontenot has become important to the Cleveland attack. But if Byner and Mack are near their '86 efficiency, when each gained more than 1,000 yards, it will give Infante far more latitude.

Then there is Ozzie Newsome. For the first time in his pro career, the great tight end was bothered by injuries. Newsome sprained his ankle opening day and then strained his shoulder in the third game. Those injuries

BROWNS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—M. Bahr, 90 points on 30 extra points and 20 field goals 11th
 RUSHING—Mack, 665 yards on 174 carries, 3.8 avg., 10 TDs 9th
 PASSING—Kosar, 310 of 531 attempts for 3,854 yards and 17 TDs 6th
 RECEIVING—Brennan, 55 receptions for 838 yards, 15.2 avg., 6 TDs 20th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Dixon, 5 for 35 yards, 7.0 avg. 12th
 PUNTING—Gossett, 83 punts, 41.2 avg., longest 61 yards 5th
 PUNT RETURNS—McNeil, 40 for 348 yards, 8.7 avg., 1 TD 7th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—McNeil, 47 for 997 yards, 21.2 avg., 1 TD 11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 ST. LOUIS (N)
 22 At N.Y. Giants (N)
 29 At Atlanta (N)
 September 5 Green Bay (at Milwaukee, N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	At New Orleans	
	20	PITTSBURGH	(OT) 37-31
	28	DENVER (N)	
October	4	At New England	
	11	HOUSTON	(OT) 13-10
	18	At Cincinnati	34-3
	26	LOS ANGELES RAMS (N)	
November	1	At San Diego	47-17
	8	ATLANTA	
	15	BUFFALO	21-17
	22	At Houston	23-20
	29	At San Francisco (N)	
December	6	INDIANAPOLIS	24-9
	13	CINCINNATI	13-30
	20	At Los Angeles Raiders	14-27
	26	At Pittsburgh	27-24

CLEVELAND BROWNS

With Bernie Kosar ambling along with the gait of a stork, it is said that the Cleveland Browns win ugly. Ugly or not, the Browns have their eyes on the Super Bowl. Kosar, remember, has fewer than two years' experience as an NFL starting quarterback. Had he elected to use all of his remaining college eligibility, he would just be coming out of the draft. Yet he directed the Browns to a nerve-fraying, 23-20 double-overtime victory over the New York Jets in the playoffs last year. Then he just missed leading Cleveland to Super Bowl XXI when Denver rescued the AFC championship in overtime.

"We may have a young offense," says coach Marty Schottenheimer, "but we're a team on the ascent." There isn't far to ascend when you win 12 games in the regular season and it takes a small miracle to eliminate you from the Super Bowl derby.

Ugly or not, the opposition can expect a lot of yards and points from Kosar again this season. A year ago, when he was still virtually a neophyte, Bernie passed for 3,854 yards and

directed Cleveland to 391 points. He also had the best interception rate in the NFL, a miserly 1.88. "Imagine Bernie when he's older," suggests veteran tight end Ozzie Newsome. "Say when he's 25."

This will be the second year that the 23-year-old Kosar has played under the direction of Lindy Infante, the team's offensive coordinator. Schottenheimer hired Infante, the for-



HANFORD DIXON

nagged at him all season long. If he can make a comeback at age 31, it will give further dimension to the offense. The Browns seem to think he can, since they didn't draft a tight end. Always intriguing is the presence of running back Curtis Dickey, a player of enormous and sometimes unfulfilled talent. He gained 523 yards in brief appearances, including a 106-yard day against the Minnesota Vikings.

The Browns field one of the least distinguished offensive lines of any contending team. At least it seems undistinguished. Left tackle Paul Farren was a 12th-round draft choice, left guard Larry Williams a 10th, and right guard Dan Fike a free agent. Their star, right tackle Cody Risien, underwent off-season surgery on both elbows. Tackle Ricky Bolden broke his leg in the fifth game. But the group allowed just seven sacks in the last five regular-season games and also helped produce 100-plus yards rushing games in that span. The draft brings a newcomer, University of

Miami center Greg Rakoczy, not necessarily to challenge starter Mike Babb but to lend his versatility to guard and tackle.

The Browns' defense does a solid if unspectacular job. Cleveland was sixth against the pass in the AFC, 10th against the run. Schottenheimer wanted something better, which is the reason he made a major trade on draft day. He packaged Pro Bowl linebacker Chip Banks to San Diego for the Chargers' No. 5 pick in the first round. The Browns then took Duke's Mike Junkin. "He is one of the finest young linebackers I've ever seen," says Schottz, who plans to use Junkin on the inside to improve the team's efficiency against the run. It was risky business to deal Banks, but he had been unhappy, and that became infectious. After the Browns attempted to deal him to Buffalo two years ago in the Bernie Kosar transaction, Banks refused to report. So Cleveland had to take him back and compensate Buffalo with another first-round choice. Banks became a burden to the coaches, even though his standard of play remained high. The San Diego deal, incidentally, stipulates that the Browns are not liable for any further compensation if Banks refuses to report to the Chargers. Junkin is expected to challenge Anthony Griggs for the inside spot next to Eddie Johnson. Clay Matthews does solid work on the outside, but Schottenheimer may have to switch someone to take Banks's place. One possibility is ex-USFL star Mike Johnson. Banks led the team with 90 solo tackles and was the sole linebacker employed in the anti-pass defenses.

The Browns have no dominant pass rusher on the line, but they do have five guys who work well as a unit. Ex-Eagle Carl Hairston led with nine sacks. Reggie Camp, the left end, had 7½. Former basketball player Sam Clancy, who came from the USFL, worked inside in the four-man front and added 5½ sacks. Dave Puzzuoli, who moved outside on the same front, had six. Nose tackle Bob Golic plugs the inside running.

Tom Olividotti, last year's secondary coach, moved to Miami as defensive coordinator. Special teams' coach Bill Cowher took over and inherited some fine talent. Both cornerbacks, Frank Minnifield and Hanford Dixon,

played in the Pro Bowl. Chris Rockins was a satisfactory successor to the late Don Rogers at free safety. He not only has the quickness to cover, but he led the team with 135 tackles. After starting strong safety Al Gross was hurt last year, Ray Ellis moved in to play well against the run.

The Browns are worried about their kicking. Matt Bahr underwent midseason surgery on his right knee and the aged Mark Moseley was released. The Browns used a third-round draft choice to make the University of Washington's Jeff Jaeger the first kicker selected. Jeff Gossett did a sound punting job, with a 35.6-yard net average. Return specialist Gerald "Ice Cube" McNeil scored touchdowns on punt and kickoff returns.

BROWNS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	NFL exp.	college
4	Anderson, Greg	WR	5-10	170	28	1	Alabama State
66	Andrews, Tom	OG	6-4	267	25	3	Louisville
61	Babb, Mike	C	6-4	270	28	6	Texas
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	31	9	Penn State
43	Baker, Tony	RB	5-10	175	23	2	East Carolina
99	Baldwin, Keith	DE	6-4	270	27	5	Texas A & M
77	Bolden, Ricky	T	6-6	280	26	4	So. Methodist
93	Boltan, Scott	T	6-3	270	25	1	Northern Illinois
54	Bowser, Charles	LB	6-3	235	28	5	Duke
86	Brennan, Brian	WR	5-9	178	25	4	Boston College
44	Byner, Earnest	RB	5-10	215	25	4	East Carolina
96	Camp, Reggie	DE	6-4	280	26	5	California
91	Clancy, Sam	DE	6-7	260	29	4	Pittsburgh
18	Danielson, Gary	QB	6-2	196	36	10	Purdue
38	Davis, Johnny	RB	6-1	235	31	10	Alabama
60	Dennard, Mark	C	6-4	260	31	9	Texas A & M
33	Dickey, Curtis	RB	6-1	220	31	8	Texas A & M
29	Dixon, Hanford	CB	5-11	186	29	7	Southern Miss.
26	Duncan, Clyde	WR	6-2	211	23	3	Tennessee
24	Ellis, Ray	S	6-1	196	28	7	Ohio State
39	Everett, Major	RB	6-10	218	27	5	Miss. College
74	Farren, Paul	OL	6-5	280	27	5	Boston U.
69	Fike, Dan	G	6-7	280	26	3	Florida
28	Fontenot, Herman	RB	6-0	206	24	3	LSU
79	Golic, Bob	NT	6-2	270	30	8	Notre Dame
7	Gossatt, Jeff	P	6-2	200	30	6	Eastern Illinois
80	Greer, Terry	WR	6-2	197	30	2	Alabama State
53	Griggs, Anthony	LB	6-3	230	27	6	Ohio State
27	Gross, Al	S	6-3	195	26	5	Arizona
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-4	260	35	12	Maryland (E.S.)
23	Harper, Mark	CB	5-9	174	26	2	Alcorn State
48	Hoggard, D.D.	CB	6-0	188	26	2	N.C. State
81	Holt, Harry	TE	6-4	240	30	5	Arizona
35	Jackson, Enis	CB	5-9	180	24	1	Memphis State
51	Johnson, Eddie	LB	6-1	225	28	7	Louisville
59	Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	228	24	2	Virginia Tech
92	Kab, Vyto	TE	6-5	240	28	5	Penn State
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	210	24	3	Miami
88	Langhorne, Reggie	WR	6-2	195	24	3	Elizabeth City
62	Lilja, George	OL	6-4	270	29	6	Michigan
34	Mack, Kevin	FB	6-0	212	25	3	Clemson
90	Malone Ralph	DE	6-5	225	23	2	Georgia Tech
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	235	31	10	So. California
89	McNeil, Gerald	WR	5-7	140	25	2	Baylor
71	Meyer, Jim	T	6-5	295	24	1	Illinois State
52	Miller, Nick	LB	6-2	238	24	1	Arkansas
31	Minnifield, Frank	CB	5-9	180	27	4	Louisville
82	Newsome, Ozzie	TE	6-2	232	31	10	Alabama
58	Nicolas, Scott	LB	6-3	226	27	6	Miami
12	Norseth, Mike	QB	6-2	200	23	1	Kansas
10	Paget, Mike	QB	6-2	200	27	6	Arizona State
72	Puzzuoli, Dave	NT	6-3	260	26	5	Pittsburgh
63	Risien, Cody	T	6-7	280	30	8	Texas A & M
37	Rockins, Chris	S	6-0	195	25	4	Oklahoma State
40	Simmons, King	S	6-2	200	24	1	Texas Tech
84	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-0	170	23	2	San Diego State
87	Tucker, Travis	TE	6-3	240	24	3	So. Conn. State
50	Van Pelt, Brad	LB	6-5	235	36	15	Michigan State
85	Weathers, Clarence	WR	5-9	170	25	5	Delaware State
55	Weathers, Curtis	LB	6-5	230	31	8	Mississippi
95	White, James	DE	6-3	245	25	1	Louisiana State
70	Williams, Larry	G	6-5	290	24	2	Notre Dame
22	Wright, Felix	DB	6-2	190	28	3	Drake
83	Young, Glen	WR	6-2	205	27	4	Mississippi St.

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Junkin, Mike	LB	6-3	235	Duke
2	Rakoczy, Greg	C	6-5	281	Miami
3	Mandoc, Tim	RB	6-1	227	Penn State
3	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	189	Washington
6	Braggs, Stephen	DB	5-11	173	Texas
8	Bullitt, Steve	LB	6-2	222	Texas A & M
10	Winters, Frank	C	6-3	289	Western Illinois
11	Brewton, Larry	DB	5-9	180	Temple



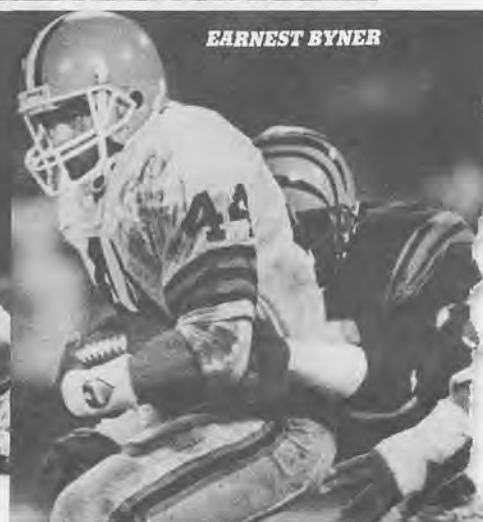
KEVIN MACK



OZZIE NEWSOME



CLAY MATTHEWS



EARNEST BYNER

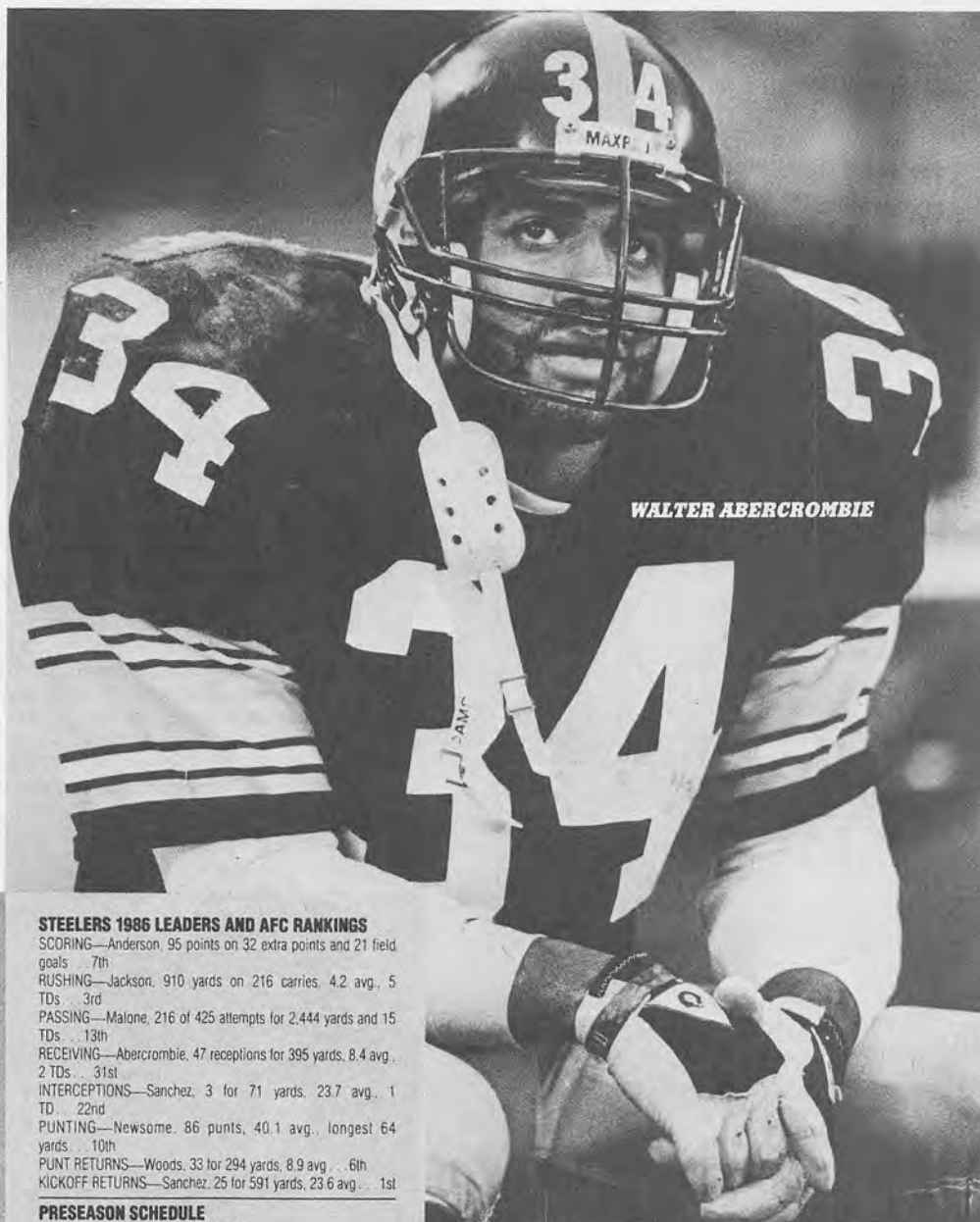
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Chuck Noll has gone back to his roots, to the mid-1970s, when defense formed the core of Pittsburgh's championship teams. Six of the Steelers' first seven draft choices were defensive players.

In 1974, the Steelers drafted four collegians who went on to become all-pros. Right now, they would settle for their premier choice, cornerback Rod Woodson of Purdue, reaching that level. Woodson has been described as a Raiders' type cornerback. He'll knock you down, then turn and run with you. He also is a world-class hurdler, an all-round player whom Tampa Bay coach Ray Perkins reportedly considered to be the best running-back prospect in the draft. In his final game for Purdue, Woodson stayed in for the game, playing 110 downs. He gained 93 yards rushing. 'I'm in love with him,' says Noll.

Three of the first four picks were defensive backs. In the second round, the Steelers took tough Delton Hall, a Clemson corner. In the fourth it was Thomas Everett of Baylor. "We went into the draft trying to upgrade the secondary," admitted defensive coordinator Tony Dungy, "but nobody planned to get three of the top four picks." The Steelers' overall defense finished sixth in the AFC, accounted for 43 sacks, and in four games held the opposition to fewer than 100 yards rushing. But the Achilles' heel was at cornerback. Both Woodson and Hall could start.

There is such an emphasis on defense that Noll brought back Hall of Famer Joe Greene to coach the line. He'll work with two of the Steelers' emerging young players. One is Darryl



STEELERS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Anderson, 95 points on 32 extra points and 21 field goals . . . 7th
 RUSHING—Jackson, 910 yards on 216 carries, 4.2 avg., 5 TDs . . . 3rd
 PASSING—Malone, 216 of 425 attempts for 2,444 yards and 15 TDs . . . 13th
 RECEIVING—Abercrombie, 47 receptions for 395 yards, 8.4 avg., 2 TDs . . . 31st
 INTERCEPTIONS—Sanchez, 3 for 71 yards, 23.7 avg., 1 TD . . . 22nd
 PUNTING—Newsome, 86 punts, 40.1 avg., longest 64 yards . . . 10th
 PUNT RETURNS—Woods, 33 for 294 yards, 8.9 avg. . . 6th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Sanchez, 25 for 591 yards, 23.6 avg. . . 1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 14 At Washington (N)
 22 At Chicago (N)
 29 At New Orleans (N)
 September 5 N.Y. GIANTS (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	SAN FRANCISCO	
	20	At Cleveland	(OT) 31-37
	27	NEW YORK JETS	45-24
October	4	At Atlanta	
	11	At Los Angeles Rams	
	18	INDIANAPOLIS	
	25	CINCINNATI	30-9
November	1	At Miami	
	8	At Kansas City	19-24
	15	HOUSTON	21-10
	22	At Cincinnati	22-24
	29	NEW ORLEANS	
December	6	SEATTLE	0-30
	13	At San Diego	
	20	At Houston	(OT) 22-16
	26	CLEVELAND	24-27

next to David Little, who calls defensive signals. The Steelers think that Anthony Henton may be a corner. The draft brings Hardy Nickerson, a heavy hitter from California who sometimes plays out of control, and sleeper Greg Lloyd from Ft. Valley State.

Every position in the secondary is open to

change. The incumbent cornerbacks, Lupe Sanchez and veteran John Swain, face the stiffest challenge. Not only will Woodson push one of them, but Dwayne Woodruff, who missed the entire season due to a knee injury, was Pittsburgh's top cover man before he was hurt. If he comes all the way back, Woodruff is



Sims, the teams's No. 1 draftee two years ago who has progressed slowly. The other is Gerald Williams, last year's second-rounder. He is the heir to 10-year nose tackle Gary Dunn, 34, who underwent knee surgery twice during the offseason. End Keith Willis recorded a dozen sacks last year, third-best in Pittsburgh history. He also plays the run well. Edmund Nelson, the other end, is steady, but Keith Gary comes in during passing situations. He had 6½ sacks. The Steelers also drafted Tim Johnson of Penn State.

The principal strength of the defense is the linebacking. Mike Merriweather made the Pro Bowl last year, but the Steelers voted the other outside linebacker, Bryan Hinkle, the team's most valuable player. Merriweather had six sacks, Hinkle 4½. Hinkle led the team with 111 tackles, nine more than Merriweather. Robin Cole flourishes as an inside backer,



a solid plus for the pass defense. Free safety Eric Williams did not have a good year and strong safety Donnie Shell, entering his 14th NFL season, is 35, an advanced age for badgering tight ends. Dave Edwards, Shell's backup, could earn a promotion, or one of the rookies could crash the starting lineup here.

No team in the AFC ran the ball more frequently than the Steelers in 1986. That remains the design for a couple of reasons. One, the quarterback situation is unstable.

Two, by controlling the ball, the defense is rested and given an opportunity to dominate the game. It worked during the early days of the Steel Curtain.

Walter Abercrombie was a slow developer in the pros, but he seemed to arrive in his fifth season. Pittsburgh's No. 1 draft choice in 1982, Abercrombie ran for 877 yards, was the top receiver with 47 catches for 395 yards, and scored a team-high eight touchdowns. Earnest Jackson didn't join the Steelers until the season was three games old, but he ended up leading then in ground gaining with 910 yards and a 4.2-yard average. Only two AFC backs gained more yardage. Jackson can be an enigma, however. He led the conference one year for San Diego, but the Chargers found him expendable. He played well for Philadelphia, but the Eagles, too, let him go. Pittsburgh should be cautioned not to make long-term plans. Rich Erenberg is a valuable situation player. He caught 27 passes, three for touchdowns, and ran for 170 yards, third on the team. Frank Pollard, once the starting fullback, suffered a knee injury that threatens his career.

The Steelers' quarterback situation is the most unstable in the AFC. Mark Malone had one of the lowest ratings in the NFL, 62.5. Malone is a marvelous athlete—he had the team's longest run from scrimmage a year ago, 45 yards—but he is not a major-league caliber passer. That is the main reason the Steelers opt for a ball-control running attack. In the wings is Bubby Brister, who started two games as a rookie a year ago and showed

raw talent, particularly a strong passing arm. Brister is far from ready to become a full-time starter, however.

That means that one of the sport's best wide receivers, Louis Lipps, could be largely wasted. He had 38 catches, a 15.5-yard average, and three touchdowns in an injury-plagued season. John Stallworth, one of the team's all-time stars, is 34 now and he caught 34 passes that included just one touchdown. The only draft choice among the first seven that was not used for defensive talent was the third, which the Steelers used to select speedy receiver Charles Lockett of Long Beach State, who averaged more than 18 yards a catch as a senior. Calvin Sweeney, who started seven games, and Weegie Thompson, who caught five touchdown passes, provide the depth. Preston Gothard is an improving tight end. His 21 catches were the most by a Pittsburgh tight end since 1983.

The Steelers consider the offensive line one of their strong points. Mike Webster, the long-time all-pro center, is not the player he used to be now that he is entering his 14th NFL season, but Noll thinks that even at 35, Webster has some mileage left. John Rienstra, last year's top draft pick, missed most of the season due to injury, but he should get far more playing time in concert with the incumbent guards, Craig Wolfley and Terry Long. Wolfley's run blocking is one of the features of the offense. Tunch Ikin is an unappreciated talent at tackle. He allowed just one sack last year. Mark Behning could push Ray Pinney, who is recovering from offseason knee surgery at age 34.

Place-kicker Gary Anderson had his least spectacular year, converting 21 of 32 field-goal attempts. Harry Newsome averaged 40.1 yards on his 86 punts. Sanchez had a 23.6-yard average on his kickoff returns, but if Erroll Tucker can recover from the broken leg that spoiled his rookie year, he may be the principal return man.

STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
34	Abercrombie, Walter	RB	6-0	210	28	6	Baylor
1	Anderson, Gary	PK	5-11	179	28	6	Syracuse
15	Baker, Andrew	WR	6-1	195	25	1	Rutgers
66	Behning, Mark	OT	6-6	285	26	2	Nebraska
6	Brisler, Bubba	QB	6-2	192	25	2	NE Louisiana
88	Britt, Jessie	WR	6-4	200	24	2	N. Carolina A & T
35	Brown, Gordon	RB	5-10	225	24	1	Tulsa
91	Carr, Gregg	LB	6-1	220	25	3	Auburn
44	Carter, Rodney	RB	5-11	213	23	1	Purdue
33	Clayton, Harvey	CB	5-9	186	26	5	Florida State
56	Cole, Robin	LB	6-2	225	32	11	New Mexico
67	Dunn, Gary	NT	6-3	275	34	11	Miami
42	Edwards, Dave	SS	6-0	198	25	3	Illinois
24	Erenberg, Rich	RB	5-10	205	25	4	Colgate
92	Gary, Keith	DE	6-3	269	28	5	Oklahoma
86	Gothard, Preston	TE	6-4	242	25	3	Alabama
96	Henton, Anthony	LB	6-1	218	24	2	Troy State
38	Herron, Donald	LB	6-2	225	23	1	N.C. State
53	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6-2	220	28	6	Oregon
36	Hughes, David	RB	6-0	220	28	7	Boise State
62	Ikin, Tunch	OT	6-3	265	30	8	Indiana State
43	Jackson, Earnest	RB	5-9	218	28	5	Texas A & M
	Jones, Bruce	SS	6-1	195	25	1	North Alabama
	Kimmel, Jerry	LB	6-2	250	24	1	Syracuse
83	Lipps, Louis	WR	5-10	187	25	4	Southern Miss.
50	Little, David	LB	6-1	242	28	7	Florida
74	Long, Terry	G	5-11	270	28	4	East Carolina
16	Malone, Mark	QB	6-4	222	29	8	Arizona State
84	McCombs, Glenn	TE	6-4	225	24	1	Central Florida
57	Merrifield, Mike	LB	6-2	219	27	6	Pacific
64	Nelson, Edmund	DL	6-3	271	27	6	Auburn
18	Newsome, Harry	P	6-0	186	24	3	Wake Forest
65	Pinney, Ray	OT	6-4	247	33	9	Washington
30	Pollard, Frank	RB	5-10	230	30	8	Baylor
76	Quick, Jerry	OT	6-5	270	24	1	Wichita State
60	Rasmussen, Randy	OL	6-1	254	27	4	Minnesota
40	Reeder, Dan	RB	5-11	235	26	2	Delaware
79	Rienstra, John	G	6-4	275	24	2	Temple
63	Rostovsky, Pete	OT	6-4	265	26	4	Connecticut
28	Sanchez, Lupe	CB	5-10	192	26	2	UCLA
45	Sanders, Chuck	RB	6-1	233	23	2	Slippery Rock
80	Seltz, Warren	TE	6-4	223	25	2	Missouri
41	Shetfield, Chris	CB	6-1	188	24	2	Albany State
31	Shell, Donnie	SS	5-11	198	35	14	S.C. State
99	Sims, Darryl	DL	6-3	284	26	3	Wisconsin
82	Stallworth, John	WR	6-2	202	35	14	Alabama A & M
90	Station, Larry	LB	5-11	232	24	2	Iowa
26	Swain, John	CB	6-1	200	28	7	Miami
85	Sweeney, Calvin	WR	6-2	192	32	8	Southern Cal.
87	Thompson, W.	WR	6-6	210	26	4	Florida State
20	Tucker, Erroll	CB	5-7	170	23	1	Utah
51	Turk, Dan	C	6-4	270	25	2	Wisconsin
52	Webster, Mike	C	6-1	257	35	14	Wisconsin
21	Williams, Eric	FS	6-1	190	27	5	N.C. State
98	Williams, Gerald	NT	6-3	280	24	2	Auburn
93	Willis, Keith	DE	6-1	263	28	6	Northeastern
55	Winston, Dennis	LB	6-0	224	32	11	Arkansas
73	Wolfley, Craig	G	6-1	268	28	8	Syracuse
49	Woodruff, Dwayne	CB	6-0	198	30	8	Louisville
22	Woods, Rick	DB	6-1	195	28	6	Boise State

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Woodson, Rod	CB	6-0	195	Purdue
2	Hall, Delton	CB	6-1	195	Clemson
3	Lockett, Charles	WR	6-0	175	Long Beach
4	Everett, Thomas	DB	5-9	177	Baylor
5	Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	230	Califomia
6	Johnson, Tim	NT	6-3	251	Penn State
6	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	224	Fort Valley St.
7	Kelly, Chris	TE	6-3	236	Akron
8	Buchanan, Charles	DE	6-2	232	Tennessee St.
9	Clinkscales, Joey	WR	6-0	199	Tennessee
10	Hoge, Merril	RB	6-2	221	Idaho State
11	Oswald, Paul	C	6-3	273	Kansas
12	Young, Theo	TE	6-2	228	Arkansas



EARNEST JACKSON



KEITH WILLIS



LOUIS LIPPS

WARREN MOON

OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	NFL exp	college
56	Abraham, Robert	LB	6-1	236	27	6	N.C. St.
86	Akio, Mike	WR	5-9	182	25	3	Hawaii
29	Allen, Patrick	CB	5-10	179	26	4	Utah State
75	Baker, Jesse	DE	6-5	271	30	9	Jacksonville St.
36	Banks, Chuck	FB	6-2	225	23	2	W. Virginia Tech
26	Bostic, Keith	S	6-1	223	26	5	Michigan
92	Briehl, Tom	LB	6-3	246	25	2	Stanford
24	Brown, Steve	CB	5-11	187	27	5	Oregon
94	Bush, Frank	LB	6-1	228	24	3	N.C. St.
71	Byrd, Richard	DE	6-3	264	25	3	Southern Miss
79	Childress, Ray	DE	6-6	276	25	3	Texas A&M
50	Dodge, Kirk	LB	6-1	231	25	3	UN LV
31	Donaldson, Jeff	S	6-0	194	25	4	Colorado
88	Dressel, Chris	TE	6-4	239	26	5	Stanford
82	Drewrey, Willie	WR	5-7	164	24	3	West Virginia
21	Eason, Bo	S	6-2	204	25	4	Cal-Davis
51	Fairs, Eric	LB	6-3	235	23	2	Memphis State
95	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	255	25	2	North Carolina
81	Givins, Ernest	WR	5-9	175	23	2	Louisville
68	Golic, Mike	DT	6-5	272	25	2	Notre Dame
59	Grimsley, John	LB	6-2	236	25	4	Kentucky
85	Hill, Drew	WR	5-9	168	31	8	Georgia Tech
72	Hill, Kent	G	6-5	260	30	9	Georgia Tech
22	Johnson, Kenny	S	5-11	172	29	7	Mississippi St.
11	Johnson, Lee	P	6-1	199	26	3	BYU
23	Johnson, Richard	CB	6-1	190	24	3	Wisconsin
38	Jordan, Donald	RB	6-0	215	25	2	Houston
58	Kelley, Mike	OL	6-5	281	25	2	Notre Dame
37	Kush, Rod	S	6-1	198	31	7	Neb. Omaha
10	Luck, Oliver	QB	6-2	196	27	6	West Virginia
28	Lyday, Allen	S	5-10	197	27	4	Nebraska
93	Lyles, Robert	LB	6-1	225	26	4	TCU
98	Madsen, Lynn	DE	6-4	260	27	2	Washington
78	Maags, Don	OL	6-5	279	26	2	Tulane
74	Matthews, Bruce	T	6-4	283	26	5	USC
26	McMillian, Audrey	CB	6-0	190	25	3	Houston
91	Meads, Johnny	LB	6-2	235	26	4	Nicholls State
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	210	31	4	Washington
76	Moran, Eric	OL	6-5	294	27	4	Washington
67	Morgan, Karl	DT	6-1	255	26	6	UCLA
63	Munchak, Mike	G	6-3	278	27	6	Penn State
39	Oliver, Hubert	FB	5-10	230	30	5	Arizona
89	Parks, Jeff	TE	6-4	125	23	2	Auburn
52	Pennison, Jay	C	6-1	265	26	2	Nicholls State
20	Pinkett, Allen	RB	5-9	185	23	2	Notre Dame
53	Riley, Avon	LB	6-3	240	29	7	UCLA
55	Romano, Jim	C	6-3	264	28	6	Penn State
30	Rozier, Mike	RB	5-10	211	27	3	Nebraska
99	Smith, Doug	DT	6-4	287	27	3	Auburn
83	Smith, Tim	WR	6-2	206	30	8	Nebraska
70	Steinkuhler, Dean	OL	6-3	275	26	4	Nebraska
35	Wallace, Ray	FB	6-0	221	24	2	Purdue
69	Williams, Doug	OL	6-5	285	25	2	Texas A&M
87	Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	27	5	Nebraska
80	Williams, Oliver	WR	6-2	195	25	2	Illinois
12	Wikowski, John	QB	6-1	205	25	3	Columbia
40	Woolfolk, Butch	RB	6-1	215	27	6	Michigan
7	Zendejas, Tony	PK	5-8	165	27	3	Nevada-Reno

OILERS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—T. Zendejas, 94 points on 28 extra points and 22 field goals... 9th
RUSHING—Rozier, 662 yards on 199 carries, 3.3 avg., 4 TDs... 10th
PASSING—Moon, 256 of 488 attempts for 3,489 yards and 13 TDs... 14th
RECEIVING—Hill, 65 receptions for 1,112, 17.1 avg., 5 TDs... 11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Lyday, 3 for 24 yards, 8.0 avg., 32nd
PUNTING—Johnson, 88 punts, 41.2 avg., longest 66 yards... 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Drewrey, 34 for 262 yards, 7.7 avg., 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Drewrey, 25 for 500 yards, 20.0 avg., 14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	13	KANSAS CITY (N)
	22	At New Orleans (N)
	29	At Indianapolis (N)
September	5	At Dallas (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	LOS ANGELES RAMS	.....
	20	At Buffalo	..... 16-7
	27	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	..... 17-28
October	4	At Denver	.....
	11	At Cleveland	..... (OT) 10-13
	18	NEW ENGLAND	.....
	25	ATLANTA	.....
November	1	At Cincinnati	..... 28-31
	8	At San Francisco	.....
	15	At Pittsburgh	..... 10-21
	22	CLEVELAND	..... 20-23
	29	At Indianapolis	..... 31-17
December	6	SAN DIEGO	..... 0-27
	13	At New Orleans	.....
	20	PITTSBURGH	..... (OT) 16-22
	27	CINCINNATI	..... 32-28

1986 SCORES

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Highsmith, Alonzo	RB	6-1	235	Miami
1	Jeffries, Haywood	WR	6-2	198	N.C. State
2	Johnson, Walter	LB	6-0	218	La. Tech
3	Carlson, Cody	QB	6-3	203	Baylor
4	Dustarek, Mark	LB	6-3	232	Minnesota
5	Tillman, Spencer	RB	5-10	208	Oklahoma
6	Smith, Al	LB	6-0	227	Utah State
6	Caston, Toby	LB	6-0	237	LSU
7	Banks, Robert	LB	6-5	234	Notre Dame
8	James, Michael	WR	5-11	184	Washington St.
9	Neighbors, Wes	C	6-0	261	Alabama
10	Duncan, Curtis	WR	5-10	183	Northwestern
11	Davis, John	OG	6-3	309	Georgia Tech
12	Valentine, Ira	RB	5-11	216	Texas A&M

HOUSTON OILERS

If premium choices in the college draft mean anything, the Oilers should show some marked improvement in the won-lost standings soon, possibly even this year. The Oilers begin the season with 20 first- or second-round draft choices on their roster. There was evidence that Jerry Glanville, in his first full year, was getting some production out of all that potential. The Oilers prefer to block out the first portion of the 1986 season and dwell on the last seven games, when they won four times.

The Oilers' latest first-round selections, University of Miami fullback Alonzo Highsmith and North Carolina State wide receiver Haywood Jeffries, should be impact players for the team before the season is very old. Highsmith will be paired with Mike Rozier in backfield. Eventually, Jeffries should be melded with last year's rookie flash, Ernest Givens, and veteran Drew Hill to provide quarterback Warren Moon with three swift targets.

"Moon gives us an excellent chance to win, and I look for him in '87 to take a giant step toward becoming a real force in the NFL," predicts Glanville. Moon passed for 3,489 yards last year, but he connected for just 13 touchdowns while being intercepted 26 times. He had one of the lowest passer ratings in the league. Oliver Luck is the backup. The Oilers

surprised by using a third-round draft choice to select Baylor's Cody Carlson.

Hill and Givens each had more than 1,000 yards in reception yardage. Hill caught 65 passes for 1,112 yards and five touchdowns along with a 17.1-yard average. Givens caught 61 passes for 1,062 yards, three touchdowns, and a 17.4-yard average. At

North Carolina State, they compared Jeffires to another Wolfpack pass catcher of the past, Mike Quick, who went on to become an all-pro for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Glanville hired a new offensive line coach, Kim Helton, who will work with a platoon of potential all-pros. The problem is keeping them all in one piece. Pro Bowl guard Mike Munchak suffered a knee injury which kept him out of play for the last 10 games. The Oilers acquired Kent Hill, five times a Pro Bowl guard, in the deal with the Los Angeles Rams for quarterback Jim Everett. Hill could be a bigger help to the Oilers after a training camp with his new team. Both tackles, Bruce Matthews and Dean Steinkuhler, return from off-season surgery. Matthews's problem is his balky back. Steinkuhler played all last year on a gimpy knee. Another highly touted lineman, guard Mike Kelley, missed the entire season due to a neck injury. Center Jim Romano was another lineman who suffered a knee injury last year. The Oilers drafted Alabama center Wes Neighbors as an insurance policy.

The lack of a top fullback and the injuries in the offensive line handicapped the running game. Rozier, the former Heisman Trophy winner, led the team with 662 yards rushing despite his own injuries. The addition of Highsmith, a powerful runner and sound blocker and receiver, and a healthy line could give Rozier a shot at a 1,000-yard season. Allen Pinkett, the rookie from Notre Dame, closed with decent games against Minnesota and Buffalo, but he is more of a straight-



MIKE ROZIER

ahead, accelerating runner. The draft also brought Spencer Tillman, who never did equal his first two seasons at Oklahoma.

Unless the running game develops, the Oilers are almost committed to a big-play passing offense, with Moon firing to Hill, Givens, and Jeffires. The team's best possession receiver, Tim Smith, was traded to San Diego



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ALONZO HIGHSMITH

and the tight end, Jamie Williams, caught only 22 passes. Jeff Parks, hurt during his rookie season, will get a look at tight end.

The Oilers lost Frank Bush, whose career was ended by a spinal disorder. Johnny Meads, who had a fine year in 1985, slumped



ERNEST GIVINS

badly last season. Robert Lyles, who Glanville says "is too small, too slow, and too weak ... but plays better than he is," is the best of the outside linebackers. The inside backers, John Grimsley and Robert Abraham, are journeymen. Avon Riley is the top reserve. It's no wonder that the Oilers took speedy Walter Johnson of Louisiana Tech, Mark Dusbabek of Minnesota, Al Smith of Utah State, and Toby Caston of Louisiana State in the draft. Johnson, Dusbabek, and Caston are similar: relatively short but all over 230 pounds and all

hitters. Smith is particularly instinctive and Johnson had 12 sacks last season. One or two of them could start on the inside.

The defensive ends, Ray Childress and Richard Byrd, are quickly developing but are not particularly good pass rushers. Childress can be dominating against the run. Glanville wants Jesse Baker to lose weight and restrict himself to a pass-rushing role. Doug Smith can, in Glanville's view, "be a force." But he allows his weight to creep up to 300 and then he becomes far less effective. The draft brings Notre Dame's Robert Banks, who has pass-rush possibilities.

The secondary, very strong on man-for-man coverage and physical against the run, is one of the Oilers' stable areas. "Steve Brown has totally changed the way he plays," says Glanville. "He used to be a finesse guy, but now he's one of the most physical cornerbacks in the NFL. He's very tough against the run and good at executing the bump-and-run and knocking the pass receivers off their routes." Patrick Allen, the other corner, is a skilled cover man. Richard Johnson, a first-round draftee two years ago, is still a work in progress. The safeties, Keith Bostic and Bo Eason, are hard hitters and heady players. Bostic usually gets the toughest job in the Houston secondary.

Tony Zendejas hit six of seven field-goal attempts between the 40-and 49-yard lines last year and was 22-for-27 overall. Lee Johnson dropped 26 of his 88 punts inside the 20 and averaged 41.2 yards. The return game, however, is nothing special.

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CRAIG JAMES

PATRIOTS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Franklin, 140 points on 44 extra points and 32 field goals. . 1st
RUSHING—James, 427 yards on 154 carries, 2.8 avg. 4 TDs. . 20th
PASSING—Eason, 276 of 448 attempts for 3,328 yards and 19 TDs. . 3rd
RECEIVING—Morgan, 84 receptions for 1,491 yards, 17.8 avg., 10 TDs. . 3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Lippett, 8 for 76 yards, 9.5 avg. . 2nd
PUNTING—Camarillo, 89 punts, 42.1 avg., longest 64 yards. . 3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Fryar, 35 for 366 yards, 10.5 avg., 1 TD. . 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Starring, 36 for 802 yards, 22.3 avg. . 7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 16 N.Y. GIANTS
 21 PHILADELPHIA (N)
 29 At Minnesota (N)
 September 4 Atlanta (at Jacksonville, FL, N)

1987 SCHEDULE

	1986 SCORES
September 13 MIAMI	34-7
21 At New York Jets (N)	20-6
27 At Washington	—
October 4 CLEVELAND	—
11 BUFFALO	22-19
18 At Houston	—
25 At Indianapolis	30-21
November 1 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	—
8 At New York Giants (N)	—
15 DALLAS	—
22 INDIANAPOLIS	33-3
29 PHILADELPHIA	—
December 6 At Denver	—
13 NEW YORK JETS	24-31
20 At Buffalo	23-3
28 At Miami (N)	34-27

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The New England Patriots have so much talent that the football world virtually takes them for granted. The Patriots won the Eastern Division championship of the American Conference last year. They won 11 games and scored 412 points, second in the NFL. They came within five points of defeating Denver, the team that eventually represented the AFC in the Super Bowl, in the playoffs. The Pats' hopes for victory didn't end until Rulon Jones of the Broncos sacked quarterback Tony Eason for a safety late in the game. Yet New England still is treated as an afterthought.

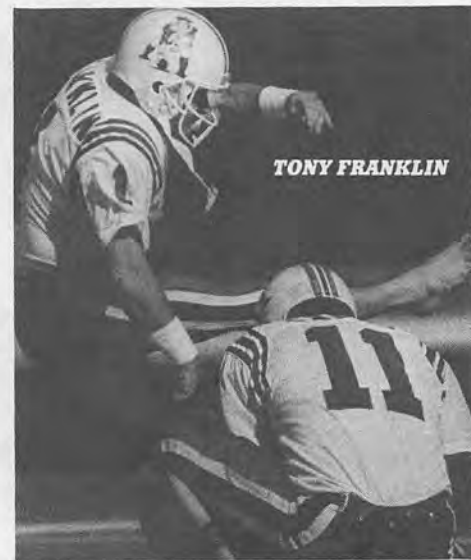
The truth is that the Patriots are just a running game away from being the team that has almost everything. New England finished 28th, dead last, in running with the ball last year. But even that is a deceptive figure. In 1985, they were second in the AFC and sixth

in the NFL in that same category. Last year they averaged 85.8 yards rushing per game. The year before the average was 145.7 yards. Craig James had the two best games for a Patriot runner in 1986, 70 yards each against Indianapolis and Miami. In 1985, James had 10 games better than that on his way to a 1,227-yard season. In 1986, no Patriot runner averaged more than 2.8 yards per carry. In 1985, the three main ball carriers all averaged more than four yards a carry. James averaged 4.7 yards.

What was the reason for the discrepancy? It could have been no John Hannah. The man some pro football experts call the greatest offensive lineman of all time retired before last season. Maybe one player doesn't make a team, but it wasn't just Hannah's great drive-blocking that was missed. "Hog" set the tone, leading the line for more than a decade, and the Patriots missed that. Paul Fairchild, Hannah's replacement at left guard, was a pale imitation. Steve Moore, the right tackle, seemed to expand in size each day until injuries took him out of the lineup. Left tackle Brian Holloway talked of retiring after the 1987 season.

The Pats sized up the situation and took some major steps. The first was to trade with Tampa Bay for Sean Farrell, one of the league's better guards, who should fit right into Hannah's old position. In the college draft, the Pats selected the highly regarded Bruce Armstrong of Louisville, a 280-pounder who was the Cardinals' starting tight end as a sophomore. He is a superior athlete for an offensive lineman and many scouts compare him to Indianapolis's star, Chris Hinton. If Armstrong develops quickly enough, he could inherit Hannah's guard position, with Farrell moving to tackle. If that happens, the Pats could have three changes in the line, since Trevor Matich, a first-round pick two years ago, is about ready to challenge 33-year-old Pete Brock at center.

There will also be a change of pace in the Pats' backfield. James's old collaborator used to be Tony Collins, who caught 77 passes coming out of the backfield and added eight touchdowns in a specialty role. But Collins spent the spring in a drug rehabilitation facility and his availability for 1987 is open to question. In his place comes Reggie Dupard, the former Southern Methodist star and No. 1 draftee a year ago. He suffered a turf toe in training camp and didn't play until November. Limited to 15 carries, he has vast potential. James underwent corrective surgery on his shoulder during the offseason, so he needs some help. Robert Weathers, another explosive back, missed half the season due to the



TONY FRANKLIN

aftereffects of an automobile accident. Mosi Tatupu is a valuable short-yardage man.

The Patriots produced 29 touchdowns, 3,954 yards, and 202 first downs via passing. Raymond Berry, the coach and Hall of Fame wide receiver, didn't like it. "We relied too much on the pass last season," he admitted. It was just too tempting. When the running game malfunctioned, the Patriots still had Tony Eason at quarterback throwing to such terrific wide receivers as Stanley Morgan, Irving Fryar, Stephen Starring, and Cedric Jones. Eason's 89.2 passer rating was fourth



TONY EASON



ANDRE TIPPETT



STANLEY MORGAN

in the NFL. He threw 19 TD passes. Morgan set a team record with 84 catches, which produced 1,491 yards, 10 touchdowns, and a 17.8-yard average. He went to the Pro Bowl. Fryar had 100-yard-plus games against Seattle and the New York Jets and caught a last-second touchdown pass to beat the Los Angeles Rams in Anaheim. Starring averaged 18.4 yards on his 16 catches. After Lin Dawson was ruled out for the season because of a knee injury suffered in the 1986 Super Bowl, rookie Greg Baty took over at tight end late in the season; the 6-5, 240-pounder averaged five catches during the last five games. Willie Scott, picked up as a free agent, caught three touchdown passes. The picture could change, however, if Dawson recovers well enough to play full time. His blocking is vital to the running game.

Defensively, there could be two changes in the line. Kenneth Sims missed most of the season at left end due to a recurring back injury. If he's healthy, he could shove Brent Williams, who started as a rookie, out of the lineup. Mike Ruth, last year's second-round pick, will battle Toby Williams for nose tackle if his knee is fully healed. The right end is Garin Veris, who had a team-high 11 sacks, knocked down seven passes, forced four fumbles and recovered two.

The main strength is the linebacking, which is talented and deep. Andre Tippett, the left outside backer, is generally regarded as one of the best in the AFC, but he missed five games due to a knee injury and his sack total dropped to 9½. Don Blackmon, outside on the right, had a better all-round season. Blackmon had seven sacks. This could be the year that the hard-hitting Johnny Rembert emerges as one of the league's better inside backers. Lawrence McGrew is his partner, unless 14-year veteran Steve Nelson fully recovers from his knee injury.

The Patriots have one of the strongest secondaries in the NFL. Raymond Clayborn was a Pro Bowl corner again and he shows no signs of weariness in his 10th pro season. Ronnie Lippett, the other corner, intercepted eight passes in his finest season. The safeties, strong-side Roland James and free safety Fred Marion, are sure tacklers as well as skilled pass defenders. Marion had 95 solo tackles to lead the Pats. James had 89, second on the team. There is depth. Jim Bowman replaced James in a game against Denver



MOSI TATUPU

and had seven solo tackles. Rod McSwain intercepted Dan Marino in the closing seconds to preserve the season-ending victory over Miami.

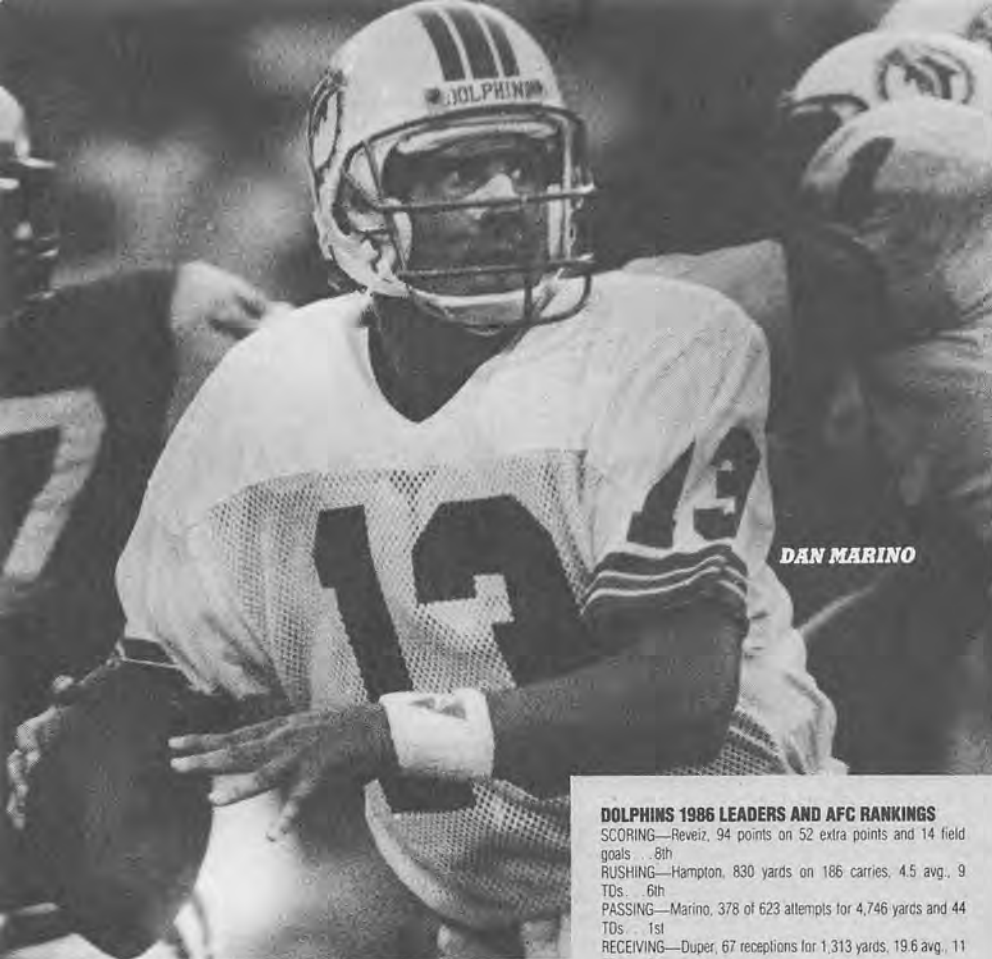
Tony Franklin kicked more field goals, 32 of 41, than anyone in the NFL and ended up in the Pro Bowl. Punter Rich Camarillo averaged 42.1 yards, often in tough weather conditions. Fryar averaged 10.5 yards per punt return and took one back 59 yards for a touchdown. Starring averaged 22.3 on kickoff returns.

PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	NFL college
62	Bain, Bill	OL	6-4	260	35	12	USC
48	Baty, Greg	TE	6-5	241	23	R	Stanford
94	Black, Mel	LB	6-2	228	25	R	Eastern Illinois
55	Blackmon, Don	LB	6-3	235	29	6	Tulsa
28	Bowman, Jim	S	6-2	210	24	2	Central Michigan
58	Brock, Pete	C	6-5	275	33	11	Colorado
3	Camarillo, Rich	P	5-11	185	28	6	Washington
46	Chapman, David	TE	6-4	245	25	R	W Va Inst.
26	Clayborn, Raymond	CB	6-0	186	32	10	Texas
33	Collins, Tony	RB	5-11	212	28	6	East Carolina
63	Collon, George	G	6-3	279	24	R	Maryland
87	Dawson, Lin	TE	6-3	240	28	6	N C State
59	Doig, Steve	LB	6-2	240	27	4	New Hampshire
21	Dupard, Reggie	RB	5-11	205	24	R	SMU
11	Eason, Tony	QB	6-4	212	28	4	Illinois
66	Fairchild, Paul	G	6-4	270	26	3	Kansas
62	Farrell, Sean	OL	6-3	260	27	5	Penn State
1	Franklin, Tony	K	5-8	182	31	8	Texas A&M
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	25	3	Nebraska
43	Gibson, Ernest	CB	5-10	185	26	3	Furman
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	210	34	12	Kansas State
68	Haley, Darryl	OL	6-4	265	26	4	Utah
27	Hawthorne, Greg	RB/TE	6-2	235	31	8	Baylor
97	Hodge, Millford	DL	6-3	278	26	R	Washington State
76	Holloway, Brian	T	6-7	288	28	6	Stanford
51	Ingram, Brian	LB	6-4	235	28	5	Tennessee
32	James, Craig	RB	6-0	215	26	3	SMU
38	James, Roland	SS	6-2	191	29	7	Tennessee
83	Jones, Cedric	WR	6-1	184	27	5	Duke
35	Jones, Cletis	RB	5-10	217	23	R	Florida State
36	Jordan, Eric	RB	6-0	190	26	1	Purdue
45	Keel, Mark	TE	6-3	242	26	R	Arizona
7	Linne, Larry	WR	6-1	185	25	R	UTEP
42	Lippett, Ronnie	CB	5-11	180	27	4	Miami
31	Marion, Fred	FS	6-2	191	28	5	Miami
64	Matich, Trevor	C	6-4	270	26	2	Bingham Young
50	McGrew, Lawrence	LB	6-5	233	30	6	USC
23	McSwain, Rod	CB	6-1	198	25	3	Clemson
67	Moore, Steve	T	6-5	305	27	4	Tenn A&I
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-11	181	32	10	Tennessee
75	Morris, Guy	OL	6-4	275	36	14	TCU
57	Nelson, Steve	LB	6-2	230	36	13	North Dakota St.
98	Owens, Dennis	DL	6-1	258	27	5	N C State
70	Plunkett, Art	T	6-8	282	28	6	UNLV
22	Proffitt, Eugene	CB	5-10	165	23	R	Yale
12	Ramsey, Tom	QB	6-1	189	26	2	UCLA
52	Rembert, Johnny	LB	6-3	234	26	4	Clemson
95	Reynolds, Ed	LB	6-5	242	26	4	Virginia
65	Ruth, Mike	NT	6-1	266	23	R	Boston College
88	Scott, Willie	TE	6-4	245	28	6	South Carolina
34	Shegog, Ron	DB	6-0	185	23	R	Austin Peay
77	Sims, Kenneth	DE	6-5	271	28	5	Texas
81	Starring, Stephen	WR	5-10	172	26	4	McNeese
30	Tatupu, Mosi	RB	6-0	227	32	9	USC
19	Thomas, Gene	WR	5-10	157	25	R	Pacific
56	Tippett, Andre	LB	6-3	241	28	5	Iowa
60	Veris, Garin	DE	6-4	255	24	2	Stanford
24	Weathers, Robert	RB	6-2	225	27	5	Arizona State
53	Weishuhn, Clayton	LB	6-1	218	28	3	Angelo State
96	Williams, Brent	DE	6-3	278	23	R	Toledo
82	Williams, Derwin	WR	6-1	185	26	2	New Mexico
54	Williams, Ed	LB	6-4	244	26	3	Texas
90	Williams, Toby	NT	6-4	270	28	4	Nebraska
61	Wooten, Ron	G	6-4	273	28	5	North Carolina

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Armstrong, Bruce	G	6-4	260	Louisville
3	Perryman, Bob	RB	6-1	232	Michigan
4	Gannon, Richard	QB/RB	6-3	200	Delaware
4	Beasley, Derrick	DB	6-2	195	Winston-Salem
4	Jordan, Tim	LB	6-3	221	Wisconsin
5	Villa, Danny	OT	6-5	293	Arizona State
5	Gibson, Tom	DE	6-8	265	No. Arizona
6	Taylor, Gene	WR	6-2	190	Fresno State
11	Revez, Carlos	PK	5-9	188	Tennessee
12	Davis, Elgin	RB	6-4	190	Central Florida



DAN MARINO

DOLPHINS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Revez, 94 points on 52 extra points and 14 field goals . 8th
 RUSHING—Hampton, 830 yards on 186 carries, 4.5 avg. 9
 TDs . 6th
 PASSING—Marino, 378 of 623 attempts for 4,746 yards and 44 TDs . 1st
 RECEIVING—Duper, 67 receptions for 1,313 yards, 19.6 avg. 11 TDs . 9th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Rose, 2 for 63 yards, longest 36 yards . 40th
 PUNTING—Roby, 56 punts, 44.2 avg., longest 73 yards . 2nd
 PUNT RETURNS—Ellis, 24 for 149 yards, 6.2 avg. . 11th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Ellis, 25 for 541 yards, 21.6 avg. . 8th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 16 CHICAGO (N)
 24 At Denver (N)
 29 At Philadelphia (N)
 September 4 BUFFALO (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	At New England	7-34
	20	At Indianapolis	17-13
	27	NEW YORK GIANTS	—
October	4	At Seattle	—
	11	KANSAS CITY	—
	18	At New York Jets	(OT) 45-51
	25	BUFFALO	27-14
November	1	PITTSBURGH	—
	8	At Cincinnati	—
	15	INDIANAPOLIS	30-10
	22	At Dallas (N)	—
	29	At Buffalo	34-24
December	7	NEW YORK JETS (N)	45-3
	13	At Philadelphia	—
	20	WASHINGTON (N)	—
	28	NEW ENGLAND (N)	27-34

AFC East MIAMI DOLPHINS

Never underestimate the Dolphins as long as Don Shula is their coach and Dan Marino is their quarterback. The Dolphins are covered with imperfections. Their offense is out of balance and their defense is two miles past terrible. Halfway through last season, their obituary had been written. It was greatly exaggerated. With only the final weekend remaining, the Dolphins had made an incredible drive and were alive for postseason competition. There was no happy ending, however. They finished 8-8 and out of the playoffs.

A spectacular comeback would not be unusual for Shula. In 1976, Miami finished 6-8. A year later, the Dolphins were champions of the AFC East. In 1980, they finished 8-8. The following season, they were champions of the East again. Rising up just when it seems impossible is an old Miami fate, but Shula himself offered a word of caution.

"Just because we've done it in the past doesn't mean we'll come back strong," he said. "That 8-8 record is just about what we deserved. But we know how to come back. You have to get the right people. They have to work. And we all have to get the job done."

Shula's list of right people starts with Marino, football's most explosive passer. But the list, beyond Marino, is the coach's shortest in a long time. The defense must be upgraded from disastrous to semi-competent. Powered by Marino's right arm, the offense scored just under 27 points per game a year ago. In eight games, Miami's opponents scored 27 points or more. When San Diego went into a nine-game losing streak after its opening-day victory over Miami, Charger quarterback Dan Fouts was asked the reason for the offensive slump. "We haven't played the Dolphin de-

fense in a long time," explained Fouts. San Diego scored 50 points in that opener.

To help find a remedy, Shula hired Tom Olivadotti as his new defensive coordinator. Olivadotti held that title at the University of Miami when the Hurricanes won the national championship in 1983. He spent the last two years coaching the Cleveland Browns' defensive backs. Don't look for anything exotic. "I don't believe in a lot of blitzing," said Olivadotti. "I think you win with sound, basic defense."

Marino is amazing. His statistical line tells it all: 378 completed passes for 4,746 yards, 44 touchdowns, a 60.7 completion average, an interception ratio of just 3.7 percent, a mere 17 times sacked. The quarterback is football's reigning No. 1 gun.

Marino's principal collaborators, wide receivers Mark Duper and Mark Clayton, each had big seasons. Duper caught 67 passes for 1,313 yards, a 19.6-yard average, and 11 touchdowns. Clayton caught 60 for 1,150 yards, a 19.2 average, and 10 touchdowns. "They learn more about our offense each year, and more about what defenses try to do to them," said Shula. The third receiver, Nat Moore, caught seven touchdown passes among his 38 receptions. Moore is 36 years old, so the Dolphins took precautions against erosion by drafting Scott Schwedes of Syracuse, who has surprising deep speed and doubles as a return specialist. Schwedes can give Miami what Jimmy Cefalo used to give it. The Dolphins have another developing wide receiver in James Pruitt. Bruce Hardy had the



most productive season of any tight end in Miami history. He caught 54 passes for 430 yards and five touchdowns. Dan Johnson, a better blocker, caught only 19 passes, but four of them were for scores.

Running back Lorenzo Hampton was Marino's second-favorite receiver with 61 catches. Running back Tony Nathan, who gets into the game on long-yardage plays, caught 48 balls



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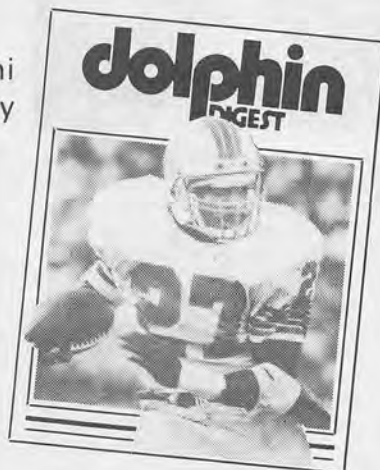
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for 457 yards. Shula drafted insurance for Nathan in Boston College's Troy Stradford. For all the knocks against the running game, Shula calls Hampton, "one of the better all-purpose backs in the league." Lorenzo ran for 830 yards and nine touchdowns in his second pro season. Woody Bennett, whom Shula calls "the best blocker on the team," has a lock on the fullback position.

In the line, the good news is that center Dwight Stephenson and guard Roy Foster are almost automatic all-pros. The bad news is that injuries put question marks around the rest of the unit. Jon Giesler, the best tackle, missed most of the season due to a knee injury and is questionable. Jeff Dellenbach, another iffy player, has a chance to move ahead of journeyman pickup Greg Koch at the other tackle. Developing guard Steve Clark suffered

a serious knee injury and Ronnie Lee, another guard, is bothered by nagging hurts. Larry Lee, a utility man, may end up starting. It will be another project year for the team's veteran offensive line coach, John Sandusky.

The first draft choice, John Bosa of Boston College, filled an obvious need: defensive end. It is a major weakness. Bosa is a tough, hard-working player who may not have enough quickness to improve the Miami pass rush, which is woeful. George Little and T.J. Turner, two youngsters, started at defensive end. Turner had two sacks and Little four, the high for a Miami lineman. Shula is whistling in the dark about a comeback for veteran nose tackle Bob Baumhower, since Mike Charles is undisciplined and inconsistent.

Hugh Green is the key to any improvement in the defense. The veteran linebacker suffered a knee injury that put him out for most of the season. A healthy Green can toughen the pass rush, make the pass defense more versatile, and plug a hole in the run defense. A healthy Green also could make the difference in qualifying for the playoffs.

The best news for Miami a year ago was the play of rookie linebacker John Offerdahl, who made the Pro Bowl. Offerdahl became the inside stopper. Shula has all but given up on one-time No. 1 draftee Jackie Shipp as an inside backer. A possible successor, huge Rick Graf of Wisconsin, was drafted in the second round. The Dolphins rated him far



higher than most other teams, but Graf will get his chance to start. The first challenge is outside backer Bob Brudzinski.

The safeties, Bud Brown at free and Glenn Blackwood at the strong side, are big hitters. Paul Lankford was developing as a corner before injuries knocked him out of the lineup for the last month. William Judson started every game at right corner. The big lift would come from veteran corner Don McNeal finally defeating his injury jinx.

Fuad Reveiz kicked only 14 of 22 field goals last year and he was a big risk beyond the 40-yard line. Punter-Reggie Roby averaged 44.2 yards, but dropped only 13 kicks within the 20-yard line. The Dolphins look to Schwedes to give their return game a boost.

DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
73	Baumhower, Bob	NT	6-5	265	32	10	Alabama
34	Bennett, Woody	FB	6-2	225	31	9	Miami
75	Belters, Doug	DE	6-7	265	31	10	Nevada-Reno
47	Blackwood, Glenn	S	6-0	190	30	9	Texas
43	Brown, Bud	S	6-0	194	26	4	Southern Miss
32	Brown, Donald	CB	5-11	189	24	2	Maryland
51	Brown, Mark	LB	6-2	230	26	5	Purdue
59	Brudzinski, Bob	LB	6-4	223	32	11	Ohio State
71	Charles, Mike	NT	6-4	287	25	5	Syracuse
	Clark, Steve	G	6-4	260	27	5	Utah
83	Clayton, Mark	WR	5-9	175	26	5	Louisville
30	Davenport, Ron	FB	6-2	230	25	3	Louisville
65	Dellenbach, Jeff	T	6-6	280	24	3	Wisconsin
85	Duper, Mark	WR	5-9	187	28	6	Northwestern La.
33	Ellis, Craig	RB	5-11	180	27	2	San Diego St.
61	Foster, Roy	G	6-4	275	26	6	Southern Cal
53	Frye, David	LB	6-2	227	26	5	Purdue
79	Giesler, Jon	T	6-5	265	31	9	Michigan
55	Green, Hugh	LB	6-2	225	28	7	Pittsburgh
27	Hampton, Lorenzo	RB	6-0	212	25	3	Florida
84	Hardy, Bruce	TE	6-5	232	31	10	Arizona State
90	Hendel, Andy	LB	6-1	230	26	2	N.C. State
11	Jensen, Jim	WR/DB	6-4	215	29	7	Boston U.
87	Johnson, Dan	TE	6-3	240	27	5	Iowa State
49	Judson, William	CB	6-2	190	28	6	S.C. State
64	Katolin, Mike	C	6-3	270	29	1	San Jose State
68	Koch, Greg	T	6-4	276	32	11	Arkansas
94	Kolic, Larry	LB	6-1	242	24	2	Ohio State
40	Kozlowski, Mike	S	6-1	198	31	8	Colorado
44	Lankford, Paul	CB	6-2	184	29	6	Penn State
66	Lee, Larry	OL	6-2	263	28	7	UCLA
72	Lee, Ronnie	G	6-4	265	31	9	Baylor
99	Little, George	DE	6-4	278	24	3	Iowa
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	214	26	5	Pittsburgh
28	McNeal, Don	CB	5-11	192	29	7	Florida
89	Moore, Nat	WR	5-9	188	36	14	Alabama
22	Nathan, Tony	RB	6-0	206	31	9	Alabama
56	Offerdahl, John	LB	6-2	232	23	2	Western Michigan
82	Pruitt, James	WR	6-2	199	23	2	Cal Fullerton
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	222	24	3	Tennessee
91	Robinson, Fred	LB	6-5	238	26	4	Miami
4	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	243	26	5	Iowa
26	Rose, Donovan	S	6-1	190	30	3	Hampton Inst.
80	Rose, Joe	TE	6-3	230	30	7	California
52	Sandlin, Robin	LB	6-3	225	29	6	Texas
50	Shipp, Jackie	LB	6-2	236	25	4	Oklahoma
25	Smith, Mike	CB	6-0	171	25	3	UTEP
70	Sochia, Brian	DL	6-3	274	26	5	N.W. Okla. St.
57	Stephenson, Dwight	C	6-2	255	30	8	Alabama
10	Strock, Don	QB	6-5	225	37	14	Virginia Tech
24	Thompson, Reyna	CB	5-11	194	24	2	Baylor
76	Toth, Tom	T	6-5	275	25	2	W. Michigan
95	Turner, T.J.	DE	6-4	265	24	2	Houston

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Bosa, John	DE	6-4	257	Boston College
2	Graf, Rick	LB	6-5	235	Wisconsin
2	Schwedes, Scott	WR	5-11	171	Syracuse
4	Stradford, Troy	WR	5-8	189	Boston College
5	Conlin, Chris	OT	6-4	280	Penn State
6	Sellers, Lance	CB	6-1	232	Boise State
7	Brown, Tom	RB	6-0	225	Pittsburgh
8	Williams, Joel	TE	6-2	240	Notre Dame
8	Dennis, Mark	OT	6-6	292	Illinois
9	Pidgeon, Tim	LB	5-11	235	Syracuse
10	Taylor, Bobby	DB	5-9	185	Wisconsin
11	Mann, Terence	OT	6-3	294	SMU
12	Karsatos, Jim	QB	6-3	258	Ohio State

NEW YORK JETS

How do you figure the Jets? They are a team that runs the entire emotional gamut, missing almost nothing. Consider their 1986 season.

For starters, they won 10 of their first 11 games, including nine straight. The feature was a 51-45 shootout over Miami. That stretch produced pride and euphoria. Then there was the five-game losing streak that ended the season, the feature of which was a 45-3 blistering by Miami. The Jets backed into the playoffs and some fans were saying, "If they had a shred of decency, they would decline the berth." That ending produced shame and depression. Once they got into the playoffs, the Jets continued their inconsistent routine. They defeated Kansas City in the wild-card game, then lost to Cleveland in double overtime.

All of that makes New York the most difficult team in the American Conference to predict. Joe Walton, their coach, points to the Jets' injuries as the principal reason for their late-season slump. Some of those injuries are what makes New York so iffy in 1987. Nose tackle Joe Klecko, around whom the defense is built, is recovering from a knee problem that threatens his career. Klecko dominates the inside game by tying up so many blockers. Lance Mehl, like Klecko a Pro Bowl player, also suffered a knee injury that required major surgery. He is the team's best linebacker.

That's not all. Defensive lineman Marty Lyons, one of the team's forceful leaders, had operations on both shoulders. Offensive tackle Reggie McElroy underwent reconstructive knee surgery. Offensive tackle Jim Sweeney



FREEMAN
MCNEIL



MARK GASTINEAU



KEN O'BRIEN

and guard Ted Banker each had shoulder surgery. Mark Gastineau, the heart of the pass rush, missed five games because of groin and abdominal pulls. Those types of injuries can be lasting. The Jets need a lot of luck with rehabilitation. Without Gastineau, Klecko, Lyons, and Mehl near top form, there is no such thing as the "New York Sack Exchange."

When they are even moderately healthy, the Jets have some awesome offensive firepower. Walton refers to quarterback Ken O'Brien as "a coming star," and he gets few arguments. O'Brien has one of the highest quarterback ratings in the NFL over the last two seasons. He passed for 25 touchdowns and 3,690 yards last year. O'Brien's confidence level was on the rise and so was the team's confidence in him, but he slumped late in the season and was benched in the wild-card game.

"You can't name a pair of more dangerous receivers than Wesley Walker and Al Toon," said Walton. No argument there. They caught 20 touchdown passes between them a year ago. Toon led the team with 85 catches, the most for an AFC wide receiver, for 1,176 yards, a 13.8-yard average, and eight touchdowns. Walker caught 49 passes for 1,016

AFCeast

JETS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Leahy, 92 points on 44 extra points and 16 field goals... 10th
RUSHING—McNeil, 856 yards on 214 carries, 4.0 avg., 5 TDs... 5th
PASSING—O'Brien, 300 of 482 attempts for 3,690 yards and 25 TDs... 5th
RECEIVING—Toon, 85 receptions for 1,176 yards, 13.8 avg., 8 TDs... 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Holmes, 6 for 29 yards, 4.8 avg... 6th
PUNTING—Jennings, 85 punts, 39.4 avg., longest 55 yards... 11th
PUNT RETURNS—Sohn, 35 for 289 yards, 8.3 avg... 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Humphrey, 28 for 655 yards, 23.4 avg., 1TD... 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	15	PHILADELPHIA (N)
	22	At Tampa Bay (N)
	29	At N.Y. Giants (N)
September	4	At San Diego (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

		1986 SCORES
September	13	At Buffalo..... 28-24
	21	NEW ENGLAND (N)..... 6-20
	27	At Pittsburgh..... 24-45
October	4	DALLAS.....
	11	At Indianapolis..... 26-7
	18	MIAMI..... (OT) 51-45
	25	At Washington.....
November	1	INDIANAPOLIS..... 31-16
	9	SEATTLE (N)..... 38-7
	15	At Kansas City.....
	22	BUFFALO..... 14-13
	29	CINCINNATI..... 21-52
December	7	At Miami (N)..... 3-45
	13	At New England..... 31-24
	20	PHILADELPHIA.....
	27	At New York Giants.....

yards, a 20.7-yard average, and 12 TDs, the most for any AFC receiver. To leaven the passing attack, O'Brien has rugged tight end Mickey Shuler, who caught 69 passes for 675 yards and four touchdowns. Toon and Shuler went to the Pro Bowl.

It doesn't end there. Freeman McNeil, when he maintains his health, is among the foremost running backs in the NFL. He gained 856 yards in an abbreviated season. His new partner may be Roger Vick, the Texas A&M fullback the Jets made their top draft selection.

There is depth, too. With O'Brien on the bench in the playoffs, Pat Ryan played quarterback. He completed 64.7 percent of his passes for four touchdowns without an interception. He had a 126.6 rating in the postseason. When McNeil was hurt, Johnny Hector

guard, with Sweeney and McElroy at tackle. That means three starters—McElroy, Banker, and Sweeney—are returning from offseason surgeries. Fields also missed eight games last year due to injury. The only healthy lineman, Alexander, was a Pro Bowl alternate.

Defensively, there is an entire catalog of worries. Even if all the wounded linemen recovered sufficiently, there is still the age factor. Klecko is 33, tackle Barry Bennett is 32, Gastineau and Lyons 30. The Jets had just 28 sacks a year ago. The draft brought no help. Tom Baldwin filled in for Klecko at nose tackle and Walton was reduced to importing 35-year-old Derland Moore for the playoffs after he had been released by New Orleans.

There was help in the draft for the linebacking unit. The Jets picked big Alex Gordon on the second round. The University of Cincinnati star could allow defensive coordinator Bud Carson to switch Bob Crable inside until Mehl is able to return to the lineup. In the third round they selected Onzy Elam, an undersized but swift blitzing Tennessee State. Kyle Clifton and Kevin McArthur are incumbents inside, with Rusty Guilbeau on the weak side. Troy Benson and Matt Monger have played some.

The Jets allowed 35 touchdown passes and an average of 274.3 yards per-game passing in 1986. Then Johnny Lynn flunked his spring physical examination and had to retire. The future is in the hands of young players. Russell Carter, once considered a prospective all-pro cornerback, has never approached that level.



AL TOON



JOE KLECKO

gained 605 yards and scored eight TDs. Both McNeil and Hector are good receivers.

The Jets shot blanks in the 1986 draft, using their first two picks for offensive linemen who did not produce. But then Dan Radakovich, who moved from the defensive staff to coach the offensive line, switched players to new positions and got better results from the line until injuries struck. The ideal lineup would be Joe Fields at center, Dan Alexander and Banker at



MICKEY SHULER



MARTY LYONS

The other corner, Jerry Holmes, returned to the team at midseason after a hitch in the USFL. Lester Lyles, the strong safety, is mostly potential. Free safety Harry Hamilton has leadership qualities if he produces on the field. Holmes led the team with six interceptions. The draft added cornerback Kirby Jackson of Mississippi State.

Pat Leahy missed only three field goals, kicking 16 of 19. He was 2-for-2 in the playoffs. Punter Dave Jennings dropped 27 kicks inside the 20-yard line and averaged 39.4 yards per boot. The Jets have two of the best kickoff-returns in Bobby Humphery and JoJo Townsell. Humphery averaged 23.4 yards and Townsell 24.8. Each returned a kick for a touchdown. Kurt Sohn, a valuable utility man, does clutch work on punt returns.

JETS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	college
60	Alexander, Dan	G	6-4	268	32	10	LSU
43	Amola, Vince	RB	5-11	220	24	R	Arizona State
95	Baldwin, Tom	DT	6-4	270	26	3	Tulsa
63	Banker, Ted	OL	6-2	265	26	3	SE Missouri
31	Barber, Marion	FB	6-3	228	28	5	Minnesota
78	Bennett, Barry	DL	6-4	260	32	9	Concordia
54	Benson, Troy	LB	6-2	235	24	1	Pittsburgh
64	Bingham, Guy	OL	6-3	260	29	7	Montana
22	Bruckner, Nick	RB	5-11	185	26	5	Syracuse
27	Carter, Russell	DB	6-2	195	25	3	SMU
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	230	25	3	TCU
50	Crable, Bob	LB	6-3	230	28	5	Notre Dame
52	Crawford, Tim	LB	6-4	225	25	R	Texas Tech
30	Faola, Nuu	RB	5-11	215	23	R	Hawaii
65	Fields, Joe	C	6-2	253	34	12	Widener
98	Foster, Jerome	DE	6-2	275	27	3	Ohio State
99	Gastineau, Mark	DE	6-5	270	31	8	E. Central Ok.
35	Glenn, Kerry	CB	5-9	175	25	3	Minnesota
81	Griggs, Billy	TE	6-3	230	25	2	Virginia
94	Guilbeau, Rusty	LB	6-4	235	29	5	McNeese St.
79	Haight, Mike	OL	6-4	270	25	R	Iowa
39	Hamilton, Harry	S	6-0	195	25	3	Penn State
84	Harper, Michael	WR	5-10	180	26	1	Southern Cal
34	Hector, Johnny	RB	5-11	200	27	4	Texas A&M
47	Holmes, Jerry	CB	6-2	175	30	5	West Virginia
28	Howard, Carl	DB	6-2	190	26	3	Rutgers
48	Humphrey, Bobby	CB	5-10	180	26	3	New Mex. St.
13	Jennings, Dave	P	6-4	200	35	13	St. Lawrence
30	Jones, J. "Lam"	WR	5-11	180	29	7	Texas
72	King, Gordon	OL	6-6	270	31	8	Stanford
73	Klecko, Joe	DL	6-3	263	34	11	Temple
89	Klever, Rocky	TE	6-3	228	28	4	Montana
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	200	36	13	St. Louis
26	Lyles, Lester	DB	6-3	218	25	2	Virginia
93	Lyons, Marty	DL	6-5	269	30	8	Alabama
57	McArthur, Kevin	LB	6-2	230	24	1	Lamar
68	McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	270	27	5	W. Texas St.
24	McNeil, Freeman	RB	5-11	214	28	6	UCLA
56	Mehl, Lance	LB	6-3	233	29	8	Penn State
36	Miano, Rich	S	6-0	200	25	2	Hawaii
74	Moore, Derland	NT	6-4	273	36	14	Oklahoma
58	Monger, Matt	LB	6-1	238	26	2	Oklahoma St.
7	O'Brien, Ken	QB	6-4	208	27	2	Cal-Davis
49	Paige, Tony	FB	5-10	225	25	3	Virginia Tech
10	Ryan, Pat	QB	6-3	210	32	9	Tennessee
82	Schuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	231	31	9	Penn State
87	Sohn, Kurt	WR	5-11	180	30	5	Fordham
21	Springs, Kirk	S	6-0	197	29	7	Miami (OH)
53	Sweeney, Jim	OL	6-4	260	25	3	Pittsburgh
88	Toon, Al	WR	6-4	205	24	2	Wisconsin
83	Townsell, JoJo	WR	5-9	180	27	2	UCLA
70	Waldmore, Stan	OL	6-4	269	32	9	Nebraska
85	Walker, Wesley	WR	6-0	182	32	10	California

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Vick, Roger	RB	6-3	220	Texas A&M
2	Gordon, Alex	LB	6-4	243	Cincinnati
3	Elam, Onzy	LB	6-2	215	Tennessee St.
5	Jackson, Kirby	DB	6-1	180	Mississippi St.
6	Martin, Tracy	WR	6-2	190	North Dakota
7	Nichols, Gerald	NT	6-1	267	Florida State
8	Hunter, Eddie	RB	5-10	193	Virginia Tech
8	Rice, Mike	P	6-0	195	Montana
9	McClean, Ron	DE	6-3	255	Fullerton St.
10	Lewis, Sid	DB	5-11	180	Penn State
11	Timmer, Kirk	LB	6-2	228	Montana St.
12	Ransdell, Bill	QB	6-1	214	Kentucky

BUFFALO BILLS

It won't be easy to get the Bills out of the funk in which they have resided for the last 3½ seasons. Their 1987 schedule, measured by number of playoff teams met and 1986 win-loss percentage of their foes, is the most difficult in the AFC.

The first thing the players will have to do is get acquainted with one another. Jim Kelly, the quarterback whom Bills' followers expect to be the team's eventual savior, didn't arrive until a week before opening day last year. Marv Levy, the new coach, took over after the ninth game. There may be as many as seven lineup changes before the '87 opener, but for a team that won only 10 games since midseason of 1983, it is understandable. Levy's immediate task will be to field a team that is up to the standards of Kelly's play.

The best news for 1987 is the composition of Levy's new coaching staff and the defensive reinforcements acquired in the draft. The new quarterback coach and passing-game coordinator is Ted Marchibroda, former head coach of the Baltimore Colts. Marchibroda will try to establish the same sort of rapport with Kelly that he had with Bert Jones in Baltimore. Kelly did not get on well with his coaches during his first NFL season. To tutor the pass receivers, Levy brought in Ted Tollner, the ex-head coach of the University of Southern California, who became accustomed to pro-style passing attacks during hitches with Brigham Young University and San Diego State. The new defensive coordinator and linebacker coach is Walt Corey, who held the same position with Kansas City. The new special teams' coach is Bruce DeHaven, who built a good reputation in the USFL. The Bills could improve on the strength of the coaching alone.

Corey could have the most difficult job, since Levy admitted, "We have a weak defensive team." The defense slipped from 17th to 24th in the NFL. The pass defense was next to last and the Bills had the fewest interceptions in the league (10). They gave up a club-record 4,069 yards. Under Corey, Buffalo will be a more aggressive, attacking defense.

To help implement the new style, the Bills used five of their first six draft picks for defensive players. They started with Penn State's All-America linebacker, Shane Conlan, then used two second-round selections to draft cornerbacks Nate Odomes of Wisconsin and Roland Mitchell of Texas Tech, both track stars. They took Memphis State's blitzing linebacker David Brandon in the third round and Jackson State's "Dr. Sack," Leon Seals, in the fourth. All should start, or at least become key role players. Conlan already is penciled in as the starting strong-side linebacker. Odomes will be a first-string corner. Mitchell has possibilities as a nickel back, as the free safety, or even at a corner. Brandon will be tried in passing situations as a weak-side linebacker and Seals, who had 31 sacks in the last three seasons, could play end opposite Bruce Smith when the Bills use a four-man line.

"We're going to make things a lot simpler, as we did in Kansas City," said Corey. "We're not giving them so much to think about. I think they'll have a lot of fun with our style."

Unleashing the defense should suit Smith. He had 15 sacks in 1986, as Buffalo's total rose from a meager 25 to 36. It should help nose tackle Fred Smerlas, too, who had his best season since his Pro Bowl days in the



JIM KELLY

early 1980s. Corey has high hopes about two other Buffalo defenders. Inside linebacker Jim Haslett returns after missing the entire season with a broken leg. Cornerback Derrick Burroughs, a first-round choice two years ago, has been out of the lineup often with nagging injuries. Sean McNanie, who had 6½ sacks, starts at left end. Eugene Marve, who led the team with 156 tackles, starts alongside Haslett at inside backer. Darryl Talley switches to the weak side, with ex-USFLer Dwight Drane at strong safety and free safety a battle among Ron Pitts, Mitchell, and Mark Kelso.

The offense begins and ends with Kelly. Considering that he was forced to undergo on-the-job training, he did remarkably well in his NFL debut. He threw for 250 yards or more in seven games during his rookie year. He passed for 3,593 yards and 22 touchdowns in all. He was intercepted 17 times, a manage-

BILLS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Norwood, 83 points on 32 extra points and 17 field goals... 13th
RUSHING—Riddick, 632 yards on 150 carries, 4.2 avg., 4 TDs... 11th
PASSING—Kelly, 285 of 480 attempts for 3,593 yards and 22 TDs... 7th
RECEIVING—Reed, 53 receptions for 739 yards, 13.9 avg., 7 TDs... 23rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Romes, 4 for 23 yards, 5.8 avg... 18th
PUNTING—Kidd, 75 punts, 40.4 avg., longest 57 yards... 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Pitts, 18 for 194 yards, 10.8 avg., 1 TD... 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Harmon, 18 for 321 yards, 17.8 avg... 19th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 15 At Atlanta (N)
22 At L.A. Raiders (N)
29 At Kansas City (N)
September 5 At Miami (N)

1987 SCHEDULE

	1986 SCORES
September 13 NEW YORK JETS	24-28
20 HOUSTON	7-16
27 At Dallas	—
October 4 INDIANAPOLIS	24-13
11 At New England	19-22
18 NEW YORK GIANTS	—
25 At Miami	14-27
November 1 WASHINGTON	—
8 DENVER	—
15 At Cleveland	17-21
22 At New York Jets	13-14
29 MIAMI	24-34
December 6 At Los Angeles Raiders	—
13 At Indianapolis	14-24
20 NEW ENGLAND	3-23
27 At Philadelphia	—

able 3.5 percentage. His 83.3 rating was seventh in the AFC. The major criticism was that he was intercepted at some crucial times late in close games. But the truth is that the Bills wouldn't have been in contention late in those games if it hadn't been for Kelly. Most of what the Bills did on offense was a matter of Kelly's individual ability. He got little help from Buffalo's departed coaches.

His two young receivers, Andre Reed and Chris Burkett, start just their third pro seasons. Both played at small schools—Reed at Kutztown State and Burkett at Jackson State—and had to learn a great deal about techniques. They could be close to maturing as pros. Reed had 53 catches a year ago, Burkett 34, and tight end Pete Metzelaars 49. Burkett is a big-play receiver. He averaged 22.9 yards per catch, third in the NFL. He collaborated with Kelly on 84- and 75-yard touchdowns against Cincinnati and Cleveland and 29 of his catches were for first downs. Levy also hopes that veteran Jerry Butler, who broke his leg catching a touchdown pass a year ago, has something left.

Greg Bell gets another chance to produce as the No. 1 running back. He finished the season in Levy's doghouse after spending most of the last eight games on injured reserve with

groin injuries. But last year's first-round draft pick, Iowa running back Ronnie Harmon was a disappointing rookie, so Bell gets a reprieve. He was a 1,000-yard rusher as a rookie three years ago but finished with just 377 yards and 12 catches in 1986. He caught 58 passes the season before. Harmon had 54 carries for 172 yards and a 3.2-yard average. The surprise was journeyman Robb Riddick, who got his chance to play when Bell was hurt. Riddick gained 632 yards, caught 49 passes for 468 additional yards, and generally made himself valuable. Carl Byrum established himself as a comer at fullback in the second half of his rookie season. To make sure about the position, the Bills drafted small-college star Jamie Mueller of Benedictine, who averaged eight yards a carry over a three-year career.

The offensive line, which allowed Kelly to be sacked 43 times last year, is in a state of change. The right side is the more stable. Will Wolford, another first-rounder from the 1986 draft, was a popular choice for the all-rookie teams at guard. Tackle Joe Devlin, an 11-year-veteran, still plays well. Center Kent Hull, signed as a free agent after the USFL went down, improved as the year went on and he picked up some bulk. Both left guard Jim

Ritcher and left tackle Ken Jones will be challenged. Greg Christy, a huge prospect who has been hampered by injuries, will push Jones and Tim Vogler by press Ritcher.

Punter John Kidd had an inconsistent year, but he averaged 40.4 yards and knows how to boot in Buffalo's late-season weather. Place-kicker Scott Norwood had 17 field goals in 27 attempts, but he finished in a slump and is vulnerable. Pitts averaged 10.8 yards a punt return, but the kickoff-return crew averaged under 20 yards.

BILLS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	NFL exp	college
43	Bayless, Marlin	S	6-2	200	25	4	Bowling Green
26	Bell, Greg	RB	5-10	210	25	4	Notre Dame
36	Bellinger, Rodney	CB	5-8	189	25	4	Miami
50	Bentley, Ray	LB	6-2	250	27	2	Central Michigan
81	Brookins, Mitchell	WR	5-11	196	27	3	Illinois
	Broughton, Walter	WR	5-10	180	25	2	Jacksonville St.
85	Burkett, Chris	WR	6-4	198	25	3	Jackson St.
29	Burroughs, Derrick	CB	6-1	180	25	3	Memphis St.
61	Burton, Leonard	C	6-3	265	23	2	South Carolina
80	Butler, Jerry	WR	6-0	178	30	8	Clemson
35	Byrum, Carl	FB	6-0	232	24	2	Miss. Valley St.
69	Christy, Greg	G	6-4	285	25	2	Pittsburgh
41	Clark, Steve	S	6-3	186	25	1	Liberty
63	Cross, Justin	T	6-6	265	28	6	Western State
70	Devlin, Joe	T	6-5	280	33	11	Iowa
45	Drane, Dwight	S	6-1	200	25	2	Oklahoma
53	Furjanic, Tony	LB	6-1	228	23	2	Notre Dame
99	Garner, Hal	LB	6-4	225	25	3	Utah State
8	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6-3	207	25	2	Maryland
75	Hamby, Mike	DE	6-4	270	25	2	Utah State
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	192	23	2	Iowa
55	Hastlett, Jim	LB	6-3	236	31	8	Indiana (Pa.)
71	Hellestrae, Dale	T	6-5	275	25	3	SMU
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-4	262	26	2	Mississippi St.
48	Johnson, Lawrence	S	5-11	202	30	7	Wisconsin
72	Jones, Ken	T	6-5	285	35	12	Arkansas St.
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	215	27	2	Miami
38	Kelso, Mark	S	5-11	177	24	2	William & Mary
84	Kern, Don	TE	6-4	235	25	3	Anzora St.
4	Kidd, John	P	6-3	208	26	4	Northwestern
49	King, Bruce	FB	6-1	219	24	3	Purdue
54	Marve, Eugene	LB	6-2	240	27	6	Saginaw Valley
13	McClure, Brian	QB	6-6	222	24	1	Bowling Green
95	McNanie, Sean	DE	6-5	270	26	4	San Diego
60	Melka, Jim	LB	6-1	228	25	1	Wisconsin
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	243	27	6	Wabash
11	Norwood, Scott	K	6-0	207	27	3	James Madison
64	Pike, Mark	LB	6-4	257	24	1	Georgia Tech
27	Pitts, Ron	DB	5-10	175	25	2	UCLA
68	Ploeger, Kurt	DE	6-5	260	25	2	G. Adolphus
79	Prater, Dean	DE	6-4	256	29	6	Oklahoma St.
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-0	186	23	3	Kutztown
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-3	208	26	3	Maryland
82	Richardson, Eric	WR	6-1	185	25	3	San Jose St.
40	Riddick, Robb	RB	6-0	195	30	5	Millersville
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	265	29	8	N. C. St.
87	Rolle, Bulch	TE	6-3	242	23	2	Michigan St.
26	Romes, Charles	CB	6-1	190	33	11	N. C. Cent.
57	Sanford, Lucius	LB	6-2	220	31	10	Georgia Tech
52	Seawright, James	LB	6-2	219	25	1	South Carolina
76	Smerlas, Fred	NT	6-3	280	30	9	Boston College
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	280	24	3	Virginia Tech
74	Smith, Don	NT	6-5	262	30	9	Miami
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	227	26	5	West Virginia
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	185	25	3	Northwestern
86	Teal, Jimmy	WR	5-10	170	25	3	Texas A&M
62	Traynowicz, Mark	G	6-5	275	25	3	Nebraska
65	Vogler, Tim	OL	6-3	285	31	9	Ohio State
34	Wilkins, Gary	FB	6-1	235	24	2	Georgia Tech
	Williams, Bob	TE	6-3	238	24	1	Penn St.
23	Williams, Kevin	CB	5-9	170	25	2	Iowa State
94	Witt, Billy	DE	6-5	265	23	1	North Alabama
73	Wolford, Will	G	6-5	276	23	2	Vanderbilt

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	222	Penn State
2	Odomes, Nale	CB	5-10	186	Wisconsin
2	Mitchell, Roland	DB	5-11	180	Texas Tech
3	Brandon, David	LB	6-4	211	Memphis State
3	Mueller, Jamie	RB	6-2	229	Benedictine
4	Seals, Leon	DL	6-4	246	Jackson State
7	Porter, Kerry	RB	6-1	205	Washington St.
8	Mesner, Bruce	DT	6-4	279	Maryland
9	McKeller, Keith	TE	6-6	225	Jacksonville St.
11	Ballard, Howard	DT	6-6	299	Alabama A&M
12	McGriff, Joe	DT	6-3	288	Delaware



ROBB RIDDICK



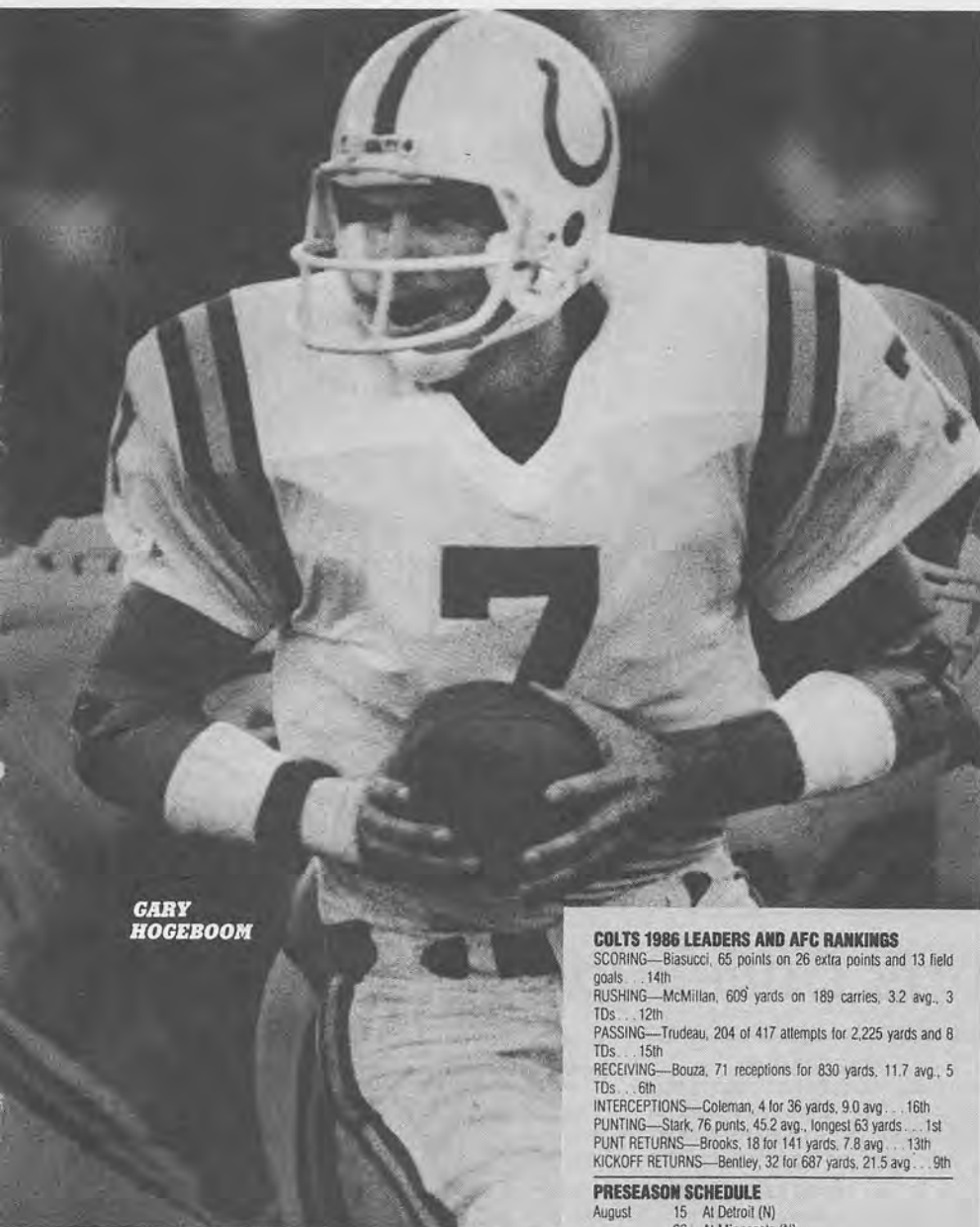
SHANE CONLAN



BRUCE SMITH



PETE METZELAARS



GARY HOGEBOOM

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

How much value is there in carryover enthusiasm from one season to another? In the case of the Indianapolis Colts, who managed a 180-degree turn last December, the answer could be that the value is enormous. The Colts lost their first 13 games last season. They were flirting with a number of negative records when owner Robert Irsay fired the head coach, Rod Dowhower, and replaced him with Ron Meyer. The Colts didn't lose another game, scoring upsets over Atlanta, Buffalo, and the Los Angeles Raiders in their final three contests.

There is no question that there was an element of luck in the turnaround. A critical penalty, which allowed Indianapolis to keep the ball rather than turn it over to the Falcons, was the key to the victory over Atlanta. An Indy punt that struck a Buffalo blocker in the foot, permitting the Colts to retain possession and keep the ball away from rallying Buffalo, saved the victory over the Bills. In the finale, the Colts caught a Raider team that had been

COLTS 1986 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Biasucci, 65 points on 26 extra points and 13 field goals . . . 14th
RUSHING—McMillan, 609 yards on 189 carries, 3.2 avg., 3 TDs . . . 12th
PASSING—Trudeau, 204 of 417 attempts for 2,225 yards and 8 TDs . . . 15th
RECEIVING—Bouza, 71 receptions for 830 yards, 11.7 avg., 5 TDs . . . 6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Coleman, 4 for 36 yards, 9.0 avg. . . 16th
PUNTING—Stark, 76 punts, 45.2 avg., longest 63 yards . . . 1st
PUNT RETURNS—Brooks, 18 for 141 yards, 7.8 avg. . . 13th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bentley, 32 for 687 yards, 21.5 avg. . . 9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	15	At Detroit (N)
	22	At Minnesota (N)
	29	HOUSTON (N)
September	5	TAMPA BAY

1987 SCHEDULE

September	13	CINCINNATI	—
	20	MIAMI	13-17
	27	At St. Louis	—
October	4	At Buffalo	13-24
	11	NEW YORK JETS	7-26
	18	At Pittsburgh	—
	25	NEW ENGLAND	21-30
November	1	At New York Jets	16-31
	8	SAN DIEGO	3-17
	15	At Miami	10-30
	22	At New England	3-33
December	29	HOUSTON	17-31
	6	At Cleveland	9-24
	13	BUFFALO	24-14
	20	At San Diego	—
	27	TAMPA BAY	—

deflated by the knowledge they were eliminated from the playoffs. Still, a 3-0 finish is nothing to be dismissed lightly.

No one ever called Meyer a genius when he coached the New England Patriots, although he had a winning record at the time he was fired. "I'm still bitter about that," he admitted. But he seemed to be just what the Colts need-

ed, even though he came from an unlikely source—he was working as an agent for players when Irsay hired him. Meyer made one major decision that was central to Indy's fast finish. He decided to activate veteran quarterback Gary Hogeboom, who had been sidelined since early in the season. Hogeboom's play was the feature of the finishing kick. He threw six touchdowns, completed 61.9 percent of his passes, and gained 725 yards in those last three games. The startling factor in those victories was that the Colts trailed at the

COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	exp	NFL college
57	Ahrens, Dave	LB	6-3	245	29	7	Wisconsin
79	Armstrong, Harvey	NT	6-3	261	28	5	SMU
72	Baldschwieler, Karl	OT	6-5	276	31	9	Oklahoma
81	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	244	28	5	Washington St.
20	Bentley, Albert	RB	5-11	215	27	3	Miami
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	198	25	3	Western Carolina
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	244	25	3	Southern Cal
85	Bouza, Matt	WR	6-3	215	29	6	California
84	Boyer, Mark	TE	6-4	232	25	3	Southern Cal
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	5-11	190	23	2	Boston U.
74	Brotzki, Bob	OT	6-5	269	25	2	Syracuse
68	Broughton, Willie	NT	6-5	282	23	3	Miami
71	Call, Kevin	OT	6-7	288	26	4	Colorado St.
67	Caron, Roger	OT	6-5	292	25	3	Harvard
47	Clinkscale, Dextor	S	5-11	195	29	7	S.C. St.
31	Coleman, Leonard	S	6-2	211	25	3	Vanderbilt
98	Cooks, Johnie	LB	6-4	243	29	6	Mississippi St.
38	Daniel, Eugene	CB	5-11	184	26	4	LSU
23	Daniel, Kenny	CB	5-10	180	27	4	San Jose State
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-4	281	29	8	Georgia
44	Gill, Owen	FB	6-1	230	25	3	Iowa
25	Glasgow, Nesby	FS	5-10	191	30	9	Washington
90	Haines, John	DL	6-7	266	26	3	Texas
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-6	280	24	2	Alabama
87	Harbour, James	WR	6-0	192	25	2	Mississippi
29	Hicks, Dwight	S	6-1	192	31	9	Michigan
75	Hinton, Chris	OT/G	6-4	285	26	5	Northwestern
7	Hogeboom, Gary	QB	6-4	200	29	8	Cent. Michigan
21	Holt, John	CB	5-11	180	28	7	W. Texas State
56	Hunley, LaMonte	LB	6-2	238	24	3	Arizona
94	Kellar, Scott	NT	6-3	278	24	2	Northern Ill.
5	Kiel, Blair	QB	6-0	200	26	3	Notre Dame
63	Kirchner, Mark	OT	6-3	265	28	4	Baylor
55	Kraus, Barry	LB	6-3	253	30	9	Alabama
92	Leiding, Jeff	LB	6-3	232	26	2	Texas
59	Lowry, Orlando	LB	6-4	238	26	3	Ohio State
88	Martin, Robbie	WR	5-8	187	29	7	Cal Poly-SLO
32	McMillan, Randy	FB	6-0	220	29	7	Pittsburgh
86	Murray, Waller	WR	6-4	200	25	2	Hawaii
93	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-2	241	29	7	Texas-Arlington
35	Randle, Tate	DB	6-0	204	28	6	Texas Tech
58	Redd, Glen	LB	6-1	232	29	6	Brigham Young
83	Sherwin, Tim	TE	6-6	246	29	7	Boston College
66	Solt, Ron	OG	6-3	283	25	4	Maryland
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	212	28	6	Florida State
99	Thompson, Donnell	DE	6-5	269	29	7	North Carolina
10	Trudeau, Jack	QB	6-3	207	25	2	Illinois
64	Utt, Ben	OG	6-5	281	28	6	Georgia Tech
34	Wonsley, George	RB	6-0	221	27	4	Mississippi St.

DRAFTTEES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	236	Alabama
3	Gambol, Chris	OT	6-7	285	Iowa
4	Dixon, Randy	OT	6-4	286	Pittsburgh
5	Banks, Roy	WR	5-11	190	E. Illinois
6	Robinson, Freddie	DB	6-0	185	Alabama
7	Bellini, Mark	WR	5-11	185	Brigham Young
8	Miller, Chuck	DB	5-8	178	UCLA
9	Oniko, Bob	LB	6-3	233	Penn State
10	Goode, Chris	DB	6-0	256	Alabama
11	Reynosa, Jim	DE	6-4	256	Arizona State
12	Adams, David	RB	5-6	163	Arizona

half in each of them. They outscored the opposition, 69-13, in the second halves. The carryover benefits may include strong psychological value.

There had been no tipling of champagne nor dancing in the locker room when the news arrived that Meyer had been hired to replace the popular Dowhower. Meyer's reputation as a martinet in New England had preceded him. Dowhower had run a sort of laissez-faire oper-

ation, which was fine with the players despite the 0-13 start. But their perception of Meyer changed for the better after the three victories, particularly in view of the three comebacks. He is seen as a potential savior.

Now the Colts have another thing in their favor, the fifth-place schedule. They will play such weak teams as the St. Louis Cardinals, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and a home-and-home series with the San Diego Chargers. According to opponents' won-lost percentage during 1986, it is the easiest schedule in the NFL. The outlook got even brighter on draft day when the Colts ended up with a bona fide superstar, Alabama linebacker Cornelius Bennett, who could be the Hoosier Dome's version of Lawrence Taylor. Bennett is the same sort of dominant destroyer Taylor is, according to the man who coached them both, Raymond Perkins, Tampa Bay's new coach.

The Colts have been investing high draft choices on defenders for several years. Their No. 1 pick from 1985, outside linebacker Duane Bickett, was their sack leader and most valuable defensive player last season. End Jon Hand, a teammate of Bennett's at Alabama, was a disappointment at first after Indy made him its initial pick in 1986, but in the end, Hand was the team's best lineman.

Not that the Colts don't have a multitude of problems. For one, Randy McMillan, their starting fullback, was struck by a car in his native Maryland in late April. He is almost certain to miss the entire season. McMillan led the team in rushing with 609 yards, 258 ahead



of runner-up Albert Bentley. The Colts made no provision for replacing McMillan in the draft so Owen Gill and George Wonsley will get a lot more work this fall.

Another problem is the availability of veteran inside linebacker Barry Krauss, who suffered a serious knee injury. He required reconstructive surgery a year ago and could be finished with football. The injury to Krauss and the coming of Bennett could force the movement of one of the starting outside linebackers to the inside. The logical one is Johnie

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Cooks. Bickett had six sacks from his outside position and he may be too valuable on the pass rush, which yielded a measly 24 sacks, altogether. At 6-5 and 251 pounds, Cooks is easily big enough to play inside with Dave Ahrens and Cliff Odom.

The defensive line will have Donnell Thompson at left end, Hand at right, and Scott Kellar at nose tackle.

The Colts traded with the Jets for defensive back Kirk Springs to help a unit that played without much distinction. The incumbents are

Leonard Coleman and Eugene Daniel at the corners, Nesby Glasgow at strong safety, and ex-49er Dwight Hicks at free.

With Hogeboom back, the offensive strength is in the passing game. Bill Brooks was one of last season's top rookies, catching 65 passes for 1,131 yards and eight touchdowns. With Brooks worrying the opposition defenses, Matt Bouza got more opportunities to get open and he caught 71 passes (five for touchdowns), more than any wide receiver in Colt history except Hall of Famer Raymond Berry, Meyer's successor as head coach of the Patriots. Journeyman Pat Beach is the starting tight end. A competent blocker, he caught 25 passes last year.

The draft did help the offensive line. The Colts made Chris Gambol of Iowa their third-round pick, and he could end up battling Ron Solt and Mark Kirchner for one of the guard jobs. The fourth-round selection was Randy Dixon of Pitt, who may have been a steal that far down in the draft. He was ticketed to go much higher. Dixon will challenge right tackle Kevin Call. The solid positions are center, with veteran Ray Donaldson, and left tackle, with Chris Hinton. Both were named to the Pro Bowl. The Colts may have wasted a second-round choice. They traded it to Washington a year ago for wide receiver Walter Murray, who held out on the Redskins. Murray was a wash-out for the Colts, catching only two passes.

Dean Biasucci kicked only 13 of 25 field goals; Rohn Stark went to the Pro Bowl with a league-leading 45.2-yard punting average.

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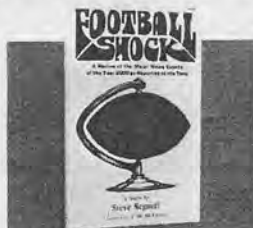
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ing them, 14-13, and went the length of the field and scored with 20 seconds left. But I think in other people's eyes I did come of age, just because of the magnitude of the game. Those are the types of things where you start to get respect from the public and writers."

The Drive, unaided by penalties or questionable circumstances of any kind, culminated with Mark Jackson's catch in the end zone to send the game into overtime, where Rich Karlis won it with a field goal. The Drive instantly became a point of reference not only for Elway's career, but for thousands of Denver zealots who had waited nine years for another Super Bowl.

"It's something that's always going to be remembered—something I'll definitely cherish, that's for sure," Elway said. "I watched it quite a bit on videotape just to get the impact of what it was all about... and I remember everything that was going through my mind. Actually, after the game was over, I couldn't have gone play by play and told you what went on. It happened so fast."

That fast, the isolated public misgivings about Elway's value as a pro quarterback were laid to rest. Earlier that week, one Cleveland columnist had called Elway "overrated." He wasn't the first, but he might be the last.

"I guess any time they're writing like that you have something to prove," Elway admitted. "That made the drive that much better. It got me over the hump. People always thought I was a good quarterback... but. There was a lot of doubt about that. The nice thing about this is that it's only going to get better with time, like that five-pound fish that turns into a 20-pounder five years later."

Some publications fishing for preseason prognostications tabbed the Broncos as the American Conference representative to the Super Bowl. They hinged their thinking on two things: Denver's traditionally solid defense and John Elway.

For anyone who put stock in preseason games, the Broncos' inaugural clash with the less than titanic New Orleans Saints must have caused second thoughts. Denver lost, 10-7, and head coach Dan Reeves, no doubt thinking of all the wonderful adjectives written about his team in those preseason previews, reacted: "Welcome to reality," he said. But the New Orleans loss, while perhaps a healthy serving of humble pie, didn't exactly lead to panic in Broncoland.

"I think we all looked at the preseason the same," said Elway. "We've never played well the first preseason game since I've been here, so that doesn't carry too much weight. We look at how we finish, and we played great against the Rams in our last preseason game. That's more or less the way we want it. We know that with the type of offense we have, as many players as we play, it's going to take us time to get into it."

"We never look at the predictions. My second and third year we were picked to finish fourth and fifth in the division and we go 13-3 and win it one year and the next year we just miss the playoffs with 11-5. I guess we looked at the Super Bowl talk and said, 'Maybe we're getting some respect now.' But we have to stay within ourselves. If we tried to live up to

what people expect of us in Denver, let alone the national media, it would be tough enough. We strive to make the goals we set for ourselves. We all know sportswriters are never right anyway—except maybe last year."

The sportswriters were looking pretty sagacious for the first nine weeks of the season, when Denver piled up an 8-1 record and seemed all but untouchable. The momentum started rolling almost immediately with a 38-36 home-field victory over the hated Los Angeles Raiders. It was in that game that the first innovative wrinkles in Reeves' offensive scheme made themselves known. During stormier times in Elway's first two seasons, Reeves purposely had simplified the offense for the young quarterback. But when Elway caught a touchdown pass from halfback Steve Sewell just before halftime to bring Denver back from a 19-7 deficit, something about this offense obviously had changed. It was

The Drive became a point of reference not only for Elway's career, but for all the Denver zealots who had waited nine years for another Super Bowl.

only the first game, but it provided the first hint of Elway's emergence.

"It was a very big game and we knew it was," Elway said. "We had them at home and they were the team to beat. That really got us going—especially offensively because we scored a lot of points against a good defense. We were down and came back."

The second critical point of the season came only three weeks later, when Elway concocted a different sort of comeback. Against defending AFC champion New England the Denver quarterback performed so poorly in the first half that not only did the Broncos trail, 13-3, but the Mile High masses chanted for his understudy, Gary Kubiak.

"It was so bad—so bad—I thought, 'How the heck can you play that bad?'" he recalled. "I was almost knocking my head on the wall in the locker room at halftime. I didn't have a rhythm going. I started out trying to aim the ball. Then I said, forget it, I'm going to rear back and just throw it. I started throwing it in the dirt. I went in at halftime and just forgot about the first half and started over. I never even played that bad in practice."

Elway wasted little time in atoning for his sins. On the first drive of the third quarter, he put the Broncos into the end zone. He followed with drives of 68 and 47 yards as Denver surged to a 27-20 win. Individually, it was the most intense adversity Elway had experienced since his rookie season. And this time, he conquered it.

"I proved a lot to myself, that even if I'm having a bad day, I can come back and somehow get a win out of it," he said. "That's what we did. We always knew we had the firepower to come back. It was just a matter of working to get on track. Looking back, it was a real big step."

By week 12, Elway was ready to take another big step. A Giant step. Although after their 19-16 loss to New York the Broncos were mired in a win-one/lose-one syndrome, their

second defeat of the season, in the Meadowlands, wasn't without its redeeming qualities. Denver moved the ball well against the Giants—indeed, Elway passed for 336 yards—but couldn't put it into the end zone. The Giants, on the other hand, were held without an offensive touchdown for the only time all season. It was a tight game decided by a field goal in the final seconds—a fitting prelude, it seemed, to a possible Super Bowl matchup a few weeks down the road.

"After that game I went up to [New York quarterback Phil] Simms and told him, 'Maybe we'll see you guys later,'" Elway recounted. "They were such a great team and we moved the ball well against one of the top defenses in the league. Later, that gave us confidence going into the Super Bowl. There are other teams that give us more problems, but no team that had the athletes they had. You don't have to be as perfect against a team that takes a lot of chances as you do against a basic team that says, 'Here we are, come beat us.'"

So Elway could work wonders even against the most sinister defenses. He had passed another test, and thought of getting another crack at the Giants in Pasadena. But there were still AFC tests to be passed, comparisons to be survived for the umpteenth time. If it wasn't his ties to the class of '83 that Elway was living down, it was a guy from the class of '84, Cincinnati's Boomer Esiason. "A left-handed Elway," they said. "Mirror images." And on the field the two quarterbacks were equally spectacular. Esiason passed for 306 yards, Elway for 228. It was Elway's legs that ultimately preserved Denver's 34-28 victory. On third-and-14 at midfield, with the Broncos desperately needing a first down to keep the ball out of Esiason's hands and run out the clock, Elway ran a quarterback draw—a play Reeves called successfully throughout the season. Elway got the first down and, for a moment at least, the latest in a seemingly endless line of comparisons was given a rest.

"There have been so many comparisons," said Elway, shaking his head at the thought. "You just do your job. I'm asked to do certain things in my situation here whereas Boomer's asked to do different things in his situation, as Marino and O'Brien are. More than anything, I'm flattered at least to be part of it, because they're all great quarterbacks. It bothered me at first, but they're different situations, different teams. You can let so many different things bother you if you believe everything you read."

"It's a learning process. I was having so many problems just with what I was trying to do here my first year that I had enough worries without worrying about how I compared to those other guys."

If there was a sad irony to Denver's emergence as the AFC's premier team and Elway's emergence from the shadow of doubt, it was that the Giants' Simms—much maligned during his formative years in New Jersey—upstaged him in the Super Bowl. Perhaps it's just that Elway must wait his turn to purge himself of the demons that masquerade as great expectations. There is always this year, when the Broncos again stand a reasonable chance of challenging for supremacy in a league ever approaching parity. And again, those chances—as well as all conjecture about a return trip to the Super Bowl—begin and end with the same two words.

John Elway.

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BERNIE KOSAR *continued*

What Kosar did in the biggest game in Cleveland in 17 years has the Browns confident it won't take them another 17 to return.

"His greatest strength is his mind, and that can do nothing but improve," said Ernie Accorsi, the Browns' executive V.P. who choreographed the shrewd acquisition of Kosar.

The Browns crawled on a long limb to obtain the quarterback they hoped would return them to their long-lost glory days. Not only did they surrender four draft picks—two No. 1s, a three, and a six—to the Buffalo Bills for Kosar's supplemental rights, they also had to sweat out a vehement appeal to commissioner Pete Rozelle waged by the Houston Oilers and Minnesota Vikings. Houston had traded Kosar's regular draft rights to Minnesota. After hearing arguments from both sides, Rozelle ruled that Kosar, because he had graduated, could choose his draft and, thus, his team.

Kosar warmed the heart of team owner Art Modell by saying he wanted to play in Cleveland. "It's a marriage made in heaven," warbled Modell. After a mildly rocky honeymoon, each party is enjoying wedded bliss.

In only his second professional season and his 28th NFL start, Kosar led his wide-eyed team to the brink of the Super Bowl. He had the Browns ahead by 20–13 until Elway, in one awesome drive, achieved the greatness predicted for him for four years.

"I was thinking of what I'd be doing against our prevent defense if I was in his shoes," Kosar said of the Elway march.

He had already rescued the Browns from bleaker circumstances a week earlier. In their first playoff game, against the New York Jets, the Browns were losing, 20–10, with four minutes to play. Shaking off two interceptions that had dug the hole, Kosar rallied to tie with seven seconds left. After a nerve-racking scoreless overtime period, the Browns won it with a field goal 2:02 into the second extra session. It was the third-longest game in NFL history, consuming four hours and five minutes. Kosar threw 64 passes and completed 33 for 489 yards. Those were three of six Cleveland passing records he set last year.

"I was awestruck after that game," he said. "Words can't really describe the emotions after the Jets game and the week leading up to the Denver game."

Kosar received no league honors following his splendid sophomore campaign even though he passed for more yards (3,854) than any Browns' quarterback but former NFL MVP Brian Sipe. But in leading the Browns to a 12-4 record, their most regular-season wins in 37 years of NFL play, Kosar earned the praises of some of the league's notable talent experts, some of whom had doubted whether the gangling kid could make it big.

"I'll be honest with you," said Gil Brandt, director of player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys, "his success surprises me. I did not think that he would be as successful as he is right now. I thought he probably would play in the league and be a 9-7 quarterback."

Brandt wasn't alone in questioning Kosar's athletic ability. At 6-5 and 210 pounds, Kosar runs like a giraffe on bad eucalyptus. He is constantly ribbed by teammates about his klutzy stride. After being timed in 5.2 seconds

in the 40 at his first minicamp, Kosar laughed, "I thought it was a 12-minute run."

Besides the slow feet, scouts questioned Kosar's release, throwing motion, and set-up mechanics. He frequently throws sidearm and sometimes, when the mood strikes, even *underhand*. The appearances are deceiving. From out of that inelegant disguise emerged one beautiful quarterback, a true field general with a style all his own.

"When you look at Bernie on film," said Bobby Beathard, general manager of the Washington Redskins, "you're not sure he'll throw the same way two times in a row. But he has a knack to find the open guy and beat you. It's a God-given talent."

Brandt said, "He reminds me of Larry Bird. When I saw Bird play in Salt Lake City, I said

Kosar earned the praises of the league's notable talent experts, some of whom had doubted whether the gangling kid could make it big.

there's no way this guy will ever be a great player because he doesn't jump very high, doesn't run very fast. Kosar's like that. He looks awkward, but he gets it done."

The secret to Kosar's rapid development lies in his analytical mind. Always thinking on the run, always envisioning the perfect play hidden between coverages. Given an offensive system suited to what he does best, Kosar blossomed into what Dick Steinberg, director of player development of the New England Patriots, called "an upper echelon quarterback ... capable of taking them all the way."

"It's partially the [Browns'] system," Steinberg said. "It's partially his great judgment. I don't think there were any questions about his arm strength and his ability to see the field and get the ball to the right guy. You could see this guy had a total understanding of throwing the football. But what you really never know is how these guys are going to be as leaders."

Marty Schottenheimer, the Browns head coach, knew he had somebody special early in Kosar's rookie season. "From the very first time he stepped in the huddle two years ago, there was no question who was in charge," he said.

Kosar made his NFL debut in the Browns' fifth game in 1985 because of a shoulder injury to veteran Gary Danielson. He started nine games that first season and their run-oriented offense sputtered. Still, with Danielson returning for two important wins, they took the AFC Central Division with an 8-8 record before losing in the playoffs to Miami.

The addition of offensive coordinator Lindy Infante last year meant a dramatic upgrade in Cleveland's passing game. Injuries to starting running backs Kevin Mack and Earnest Byner forced the Browns to throw more in 1986 than even Kosar preferred. He passed 531 times and completed 310 for 58.4 percent and 3,854 yards. He had 17 touchdown passes and only 10 interceptions. His interception rate of 1.88 percent was the stingiest in the NFL and the lowest in Browns' history. He had three 400-yard passing games, counting the playoffs, and directed the Browns three times over 500 yards total offense.

"Two things none of us could have expected were his control of the offense and the

number of times he had to throw," said Accorsi. "We felt we'd still be a running team. But the one thing he did that didn't surprise us were the big plays."

He made two of his biggest plays against division rivals Pittsburgh and Cincinnati in must-win games. In overtime against the Steelers, Kosar, realizing the Browns couldn't risk a field goal because their kicker was injured, called an audible at the line and went for the home run. Off balance and off the wrong foot, he faked one way and beat the blitz with a perfect 36-yard touchdown pass to Webster Slaughter for a 37–31 victory.

Three weeks later, the Central Division title was on the line in Cincinnati's hostile Riverfront Stadium. Kosar staggered the Bengals on the very first play of the game. He spotted single coverage and completed a 66-yard bomb to Reggie Langhorne. The Browns cruised to the championship, 34–3. Modell later called it the greatest Cleveland victory since their 1964 championship. Oh, yes, Kosar called the opening play after a pregame suggestion from Danielson, who, says Kosar, "understands me better than anyone."

Always one to speak his mind, Kosar has landed in hot water in each of his two seasons in Cleveland. He criticized the Browns' conservative offense after the playoff loss to Miami in 1985. Then he spoke out against the new offense midway through the next season, suggesting they needed to throw long more often. It did not sit well with Infante, but things were patched up and the Browns added the long ball to their attack.

Kosar believes Infante's famed option-route pass system, which Ken Anderson used to take the Bengals to the Super Bowl after the 1981 season, should be refined to keep up with the game's changing times.

"That system is intended for backs to catch a lot of passes," Kosar says. "Fortunately, we got away from that towards the end and started using receivers more, because people definitely caught on to it. We need to keep progressing, not to say we were successful with one way and stay that way. You need to keep people off guard."

Kosar has a way of doing that on and off the field. He is unassuming despite a big contract and resists being singled out. At his first training camp he declined to step into a limousine to take him to a magazine photo session until it was moved from the view of his teammates. Last year he cut short a postgame, on-the-field interview on national television after two questions to rejoin his teammates in the locker room. He surprised each member of his tight-knit offensive line, including non-starters, with a case of imported Dom Perignon champagne for Christmas. "They had a great year," Kosar said.

And what of the man they protect? What can be expected of Kosar in his third NFL season?

"I think this year he will secure his spot among the best in the league," said Accorsi. "He won't be just one of the up-and-coming young quarterbacks anymore. Eventually, I think his success will be measured by championships rather than statistics."

Accorsi formerly worked for the Baltimore Colts. He had such high hopes for Kosar that he assigned him jersey No. 19, the same as the great Johnny Unitas. No other NFL quarterback wears that number, and that's just as well. There really is no one like him.

TONY DORSETT

continued from page 16

doubt a major milestone. No matter what era you're from, Jim Brown's name always comes up. And it doesn't matter if Walter passes him or if I pass him. He's the guy nobody forgets. Jim Brown will always be the back that others are measured by because he did it in a shorter season (12, then 14 games) and in [fewer—nine] years. It's never been a dream of mine to surpass Jim Brown. That's something I never considered, yet now I'm right at the doorstep. It's going to mean a lot to me."

Just when Dorsett will do it depends largely upon three things: injuries, the play of the offensive line, and Landry's decision on how to combine Dorsett and Herschel Walker most effectively. Landry stated during the off-season that Walker's primary position in 1987 would be fullback, which is where he finished in '86. Again Walker will be used in a variety of ways, Landry said, but the key is to find plenty of work for both backs. "We've got to keep both of them on the field as much as possible. When you have those two on the field, anything can happen," he said. "We're counting on them to carry the load of the offense."

The roles of the two backs became a confusing and often frustrating problem in 1986 for all parties—players, coaches, and fans—but Dorsett appears to be eagerly awaiting his assignment for 1987.

"I think a lot of people are interested in seeing what's going to happen with Herschel and Tony," Dorsett said. "You've got two pretty good athletes there. I'm interested in seeing how creative and imaginative our coaches will be. They've had a whole year to think about this, a long time to kick things around. They're going to have to come up with some kind of mix that will utilize our individual talents."

Although the pair combined for more than 2,500 rushing and receiving yards last year, Dorsett said opponents never were forced to deal with the backs at full strength. "I was limited all year. My game was completely taken away," Dorsett said. "This year we'll try to work on some different things, not running just to the strong side all the time but running to the weak side to keep defenses honest."

If the Cowboys regain the full use of Dorsett's skills in conjunction with Walker's, then the year the winning stopped in Dallas may be quickly forgotten. That the Cowboys have relied heavily upon Dorsett is reflected in their 42-4 record in games in which he has gained 100 yards. Dorsett, who added only two 100-yard games to that total last year, hopes to rediscover the glory days in 1987.

"We're capable of getting back on top. I think we have just as good a chance as anyone and that's not just blowing smoke. You can't tell me that [with] our backfield, our receivers, and a lot of our skill positions we're not as good as any team in this business," Dorsett said. "We've fallen off in other areas, but with the right frame of mind, we can get right back in the thick of things. I really think we're capable of surprising some people."

Dorsett paused for a moment after that last statement and his eyes widened. "The Cowboys surprising people—I never thought I'd be saying that."

But Dorsett never thought he would even be concerned about it at such a late date as 1987, either.

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CANADIAN

PREDICTIONS

EASTERN DIVISION

1. Hamilton Tiger-Cats
2. Toronto Argonauts
3. Ottawa Rough Riders
4. Montreal Alouettes

WESTERN DIVISION

1. Edmonton Eskimos
2. British Columbia Lions
3. Winnipeg Jets
4. Calgary Stampeders
5. Saskatchewan Roughriders

● C.F.L. The letters could very well stand for the Crisis Football League. But Canadian Football League it is and North America's second professional football league continues to lurch from pillar to post with a multitude of problems which provide argument for those who urge its quick demise. But the league has shown it is a survivor.

When the CFL opens its 1987 season in late June, it will do so with the same nine teams that have been a part of its makeup since 1954, when the league went over the Rockies to take in the B.C. Lions. But a 10th team, a franchise in the Maritimes, would make the CFL a truly national commodity and balance the East and West divisions at five teams apiece. A fifth team in the East, however, is the least of commissioner Doug Mitchell's concerns. The former Calgary lawyer, who launches his second three-year term, faces much more pressing problems. Namely, a dramatic decline in television revenue and continued losses at the box office brought about by sagging attendances.

In one of his final acts before turning the commissioner's aspirin over to Mitchell, Jake Gaudaur managed to convince Carling O'Keefe Brewery to come up with \$33 million on a three-year television contract. While that may be a mere pittance compared with the revenue the National Football League derives from television, it was certainly the largest pact ever signed by the CFL. That financial

well has now gone dry. The contract Gaudaur negotiated was made possible by the intense brewery war that was taking place in Canada at the time. But that conflict has run its course and Carling O'Keefe, which is running third among the major Canadian suds makers, is no longer interested in pouring good money after bad. Neither are the other two companies (Labatt's and Molson), who are more committed to baseball and hockey. The two major television networks were interested, but not at the previous rates. The CBC offered an unconfirmed \$1.75 million for a one-year contract which would see them telecast 22 of the league's 81 games. CTV offered \$1.5 million for 21 games. That was rejected.

The league's solution has been to establish its own network of independent stations to carry 37 games. However, that plan isn't without its glitches. The CFN, as the network will be dubbed, didn't (at the time of this writing) have an affiliate in Ottawa, nor an English-language station in Montreal and totally excludes the Maritimes. The league was also hoping to sell some 20 games to The Sports Network (TSN), Canada's pay television sports channel.

"The bottom line is that if we'd taken the offer made by the networks, we couldn't have survived," said Mitchell. "It would have taken us through 1987, but there would have been a huge question mark after that." Mitchell feels the league needs a minimum of \$5-6 million from television revenue. However, he feels the private network combined with the CBC and pay television can produce 85 percent of last year's revenue.

BY RICK MATSUMOTO TORONTO STAR

Mitchell's major problem continues to be attendance. That, he says, is the only way to assure the league's survival. The big concern continues to be Montreal. After absorbing more than \$17 million in losses to keep football alive in the city, majority owners Charles Bronfman and Edmond Ricard said enough is enough and sold the team to minority owner Norm Kimball and Edmonton businessman Jim Hole. Bronfman and Ricard also paid off the team's debts, then tossed in \$2 million to help the Als get started in '87. How's that for corporate citizenship?

Kimball is seen as the hope for the team's survival. The former Edmonton Eskimo general manager, who was instrumental in building the Eskies into a CFL powerhouse, must make the Alouettes a success on the field. Winning, as the baseball Expos have learned, is the only way to the hearts and wallets of Montreal sports fans.

"Kimball has carried out a major market research project and it's told him that the team has not been a very interesting one," said Mitchell. "More times than not it's a losing one. Its best record in recent years has been 8-8."

1986 CFL FINAL STANDINGS

EASTERN DIVISION	w	l	t	pts	off	def
Toronto	10	8	0	20	417	441
Hamilton	9	8	1	19	405	366
Montreal	4	14	0	8	320	500
Ottawa	3	14	1	7	346	514
WESTERN DIVISION						
Edmonton	13	4	1	27	540	365
British Columbia	12	6	0	24	441	410
Winnipeg	11	7	0	22	545	387
Calgary	11	7	0	22	484	380
Saskatchewan	6	11	1	13	382	517

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

Toronto 31 • Hamilton 17
 Hamilton 42 • Toronto 25
 (Hamilton wins on overall points, 59-56)
 British Columbia 21 • Winnipeg 14
 Edmonton 27 • Calgary 18

DIVISION FINAL

Edmonton 41 • British Columbia 5

GREY CUP

Hamilton 39 • Edmonton 15



KEN HOBART
Hamilton

The Alouettes franchise, however, hasn't been the only league problem. There are also the Ottawa Rough Riders and the Saskatchewan Roughriders (yes, the CFL has two teams with the same name). Saskatchewan, which once boasted that it had "the best fans in the country," has found out that even the patience of the best fans can be taxed by missing the playoffs for 10 straight seasons. The team has lost money for the past two seasons and must turn things around this year if it is to continue

as a viable franchise. In the nation's capital, the eastern Riders, who have stumbled along for seven years without topping the .500 mark, were given away by owner Allan Watters to a local group, which includes several former Riders, who will operate the club as a community team.

The bottom line for each of these teams is to produce a winner. As National Hockey League executive Giles Leger of the Quebec Nordiques pointed out, the phenomenal success of the NFL is due to a large extent to the fact that "fans know that when they go to a game they're going to get good entertainment because any team has a chance to beat another on a given day. The NHL is reaching that point, too." The CFL must also strive to reach parity if it is to bring fans back.

The league took a couple of steps towards that goal with an equalization draft and the establishment of a salary cap for the '87 season. In the February "competitive balance plan" Ottawa, Montreal, and Saskatchewan each drafted four players off the rosters of the other six teams. The addition of these players alone will not make those three teams instant winners. They must still recruit wisely to fill other holes in their lineup. But it's a start.

In a second attempt to help its weak links, the league agreed to a salary cap of \$2 million per team. What that will do is aid the clubs who are suffering at the gate to remain at least financially competitive in their recruiting efforts. The cap has caused some teams to jettison veteran players from their rosters and make salary cuts or take-it-or-leave-it offers to other high-priced talent who were up for contract renewals.

The Toronto Argonauts, for example, dropped veteran quarterback Condredge Holloway, who was earning \$250,000, even though their only other experienced quarterback was the somewhat inconsistent J.C. Watts (Oklahoma). Hobbled by a serious knee injury suffered two years ago, Holloway no longer can be counted on to be a starter, but the Argos weren't willing to pay his salary simply for his know-how. The B.C. Lions, who made money at the gate, were willing to accept Holloway as a backup to Roy Dewalt (Texas-Arlington), but at much reduced rates. Besides, they could afford Holloway after wide receiver Swervin' Mervyn Fernandez played out his option and became an instant millionaire with the Los Angeles Raiders.

Mitchell feels sensible spending is a must for the CFL to survive. "We have these tremendous limits in population and the ability to large draw numbers," he said. "We have five stadiums in the league which hold 35,000 or less. When you have such limitation of seating, you can't get involved in massive salaries. If the CFL had competed with the USFL, we wouldn't be here now."

"In 1985, Calgary at B.C. drew 35,000," added Mitchell. "Last year, 49,000 fans were drawn to B.C. Place to watch the much improved Stampeders. That brought in an extra \$300,000 in revenue for the Lions."

Mitchell is confident that with the measures taken by the league and with new management in three cities (Montreal, Saskatchewan, and Ottawa), the CFL will provide better entertainment in 1987 and rekindle fan interest.

It better, because even a rubber ball eventually loses its resiliency after it's been thrown at a brick wall too many times.

EASTERN DIVISION

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

(9-8-1) The Tiger-Cats' genial coach, Al Bruno, would have to be excused if he voiced the adage that "Things were going too good to be true." Bruno had guided the Tiger-Cats to an astonishing upset of the Edmonton Eskimos in last November's Grey Cup game to bring Hamilton its first CFL championship since 1972. For his accomplishment he was named the CFL's coach of the year and rewarded with a new contract by owner Harold Ballard.

Then his two starting wide receivers, Tony Champion (Tennessee-Martin) and Steve Stapler (San Diego State), became free agents and were testing the NFL waters. They caught 136 passes for 2,077 yards, almost half the total passing yardage of the Ticats, who ranked last in the league in that department. The possible loss of the two wasn't the only reason Bruno suddenly developed a headache. In the CFL's equalization draft he lost veteran hometown center Marv Allemang to Ottawa and running back Walter Bender (Kent State) to Saskatchewan. Then Bruno learned that offensive lineman Mike Dirks, who underwent surgery for a damaged Achilles' tendon, probably won't be ready to start.

The news, however, isn't all bad. Less Browne underwent successful arthroscopic knee surgery and Canadian defensive end David Sauve (Harvard), who missed all of the regular season with a damaged nerve at the base of his neck, played in the second game of the two-game total points Eastern final as well as the Grey Cup game and showed he's fully recovered.

To find a replacement for Allemang, Bruno intends to give backup center Pat Brady as

well as guards Jason Riley and Dale Sander-son (Tennessee) a look at that position. Even the three offensive linemen Ticats selected in the draft—Lou Godry (Guelph), Joe Fortune (McMaster), and Greg Doren (Nevada-Reno)—might get some work at the position.

The receiving corps won't be entirely devoid of talent should Champion and Stapler find work in the NFL. Canadian Rocky DiPietro was the league's fourth-leading receiver with 86 catches for 1,087 yards. Ron Ingram (Oklahoma State), a four-year veteran who played wide receiver in the Grey Cup game while Champion moved inside to slotback, can play either position. Ken Zachary (Oklahoma State), who filled in for Bender in the first game of the Eastern finals, will get first crack at the running-back job. At 6-foot and 229 pounds he's a formidable ball-carrier but lacks speed.

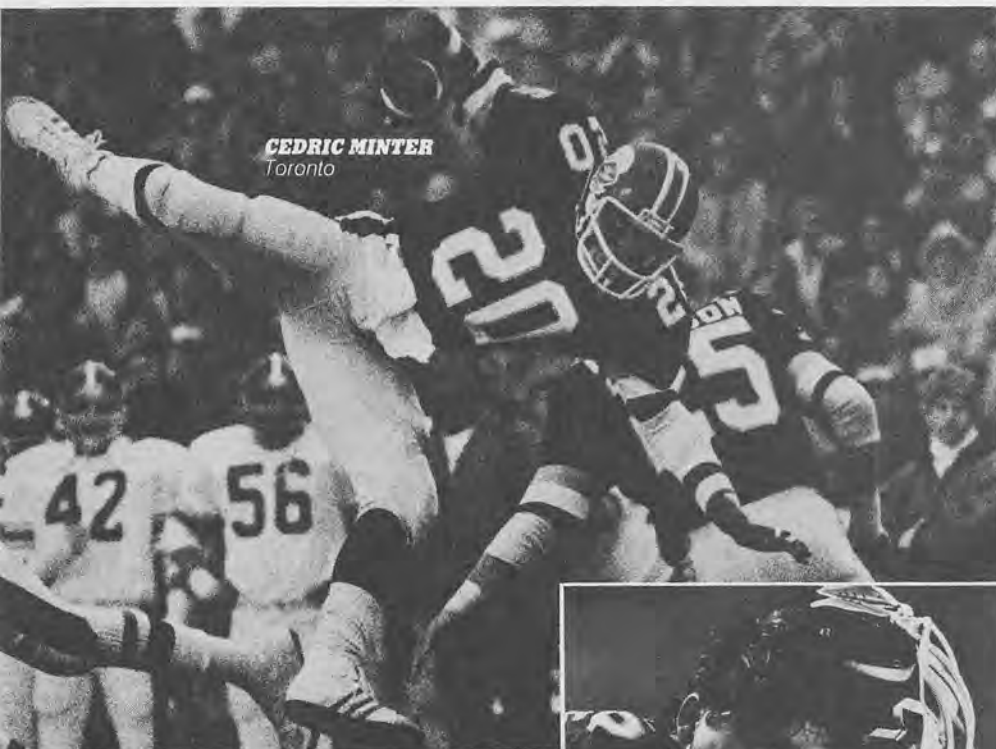
Defensively, the 'Cats are set. The front four with Sauve's return, which allows Bruno to use three import receivers rather than two, is awesome. They accounted for 56 of the team's 77 sacks last season, with Mike Walker (Washington State) getting 21 and Grover Covington (Johnson C. Smith) 18. Rod Skillman (Missouri), who gave way to Sauve, dropped quarterbacks nine times, while Mitchell Price (Livingston) recorded eight sacks.

The linebackers will be led by 10-year veteran Ben Zambiasi (Georgia), who at age 30 shows no signs of letting up. He'll again be flanked by Frank Robinson (Tulane) and Canadian Leo Ezerins (Witworth College), another 10-year pro.

"The old guys," as Bruno refers to them, will be back intact in the secondary. Browne, who turns 27 in July, is the baby among the starters. Lance Shields (Drake), who celebrated his 27th birthday earlier this year, was a big

BEN ZAMBIASI
Hamilton





find for the 'Cats last summer after Bruno decided Gerald Bess would not be adequate in the corner. Safeties Howard Fields (Baylor) and Mark Streeter (Arizona) are 29 and 30, respectively, while the old man of the secondary is 34-year-old Canadian Paul Bennett.

The Tiger-Cats came up with another solid find in Paul Osbaldiston (Western Montana), who was cut by two other CFL teams before coming in to rescue the Ticats' place-kicking game after veteran Bernie Ruoff (Syracuse) was injured.

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

(10-8) Remember the scene from the movie *Crocodile Dundee*, when the hero and his lady friend are confronted by a street gang in New York City? One of the gang members flashes a switchblade and cries, "I've got a knife." At that point Dundee hauls out something more akin to a samurai sword and proclaims, "You call that a knife? Now *this* is a knife." Transform that scene to the office of Argonaut head coach Bob O'Billovich after another loss. "You call those guys football players?" asks Dundee, pointing in the direction of the dressing room. "These are what I call football players." Into O'Billovich's office stroll several behemoth Australian rules football players.

What's this scenario got to do with the Argos and the CFL, you ask? Well, in the offseason, the Argos became the property of the Elders IXL Co. of Australia, the brewers of Foster's Lager, when Elders purchased Carling O'Keefe Brewery from Rothman's Pall Mall of South Africa. And *Crocodile Dundee*, through actor Paul Hogan, was the prime figure in Foster's Lager ads long before the hit movie.

Whether a couple of Aussie rules players would help the Argos is strictly a matter of conjecture, but there's no doubt the Double Blue must improve their on-field product this year if they are to regain top billing in the east division. More importantly, they'll need to retain a solid base of fan support for the day



they move into Toronto's new domed stadium, which is slated to be opened in the spring of 1989. O'Billovich and general manager Leo Cahill must strengthen several areas if the Argos are to challenge the defending Grey Cup champion Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Quarterback is the No. 1 priority. Con-dredge Holloway (Tennessee), who along with Joe Barnes (Texas Tech) took the Argos to three straight first-place finishes and a Grey Cup victory in 1983, was cut loose during the winter. J.C. Watts (Oklahoma), who never quite filled Holloway's shoes in Ottawa after the latter was traded to the Argos, is, ironically, trying to do that job in Toronto. He joined the Argos midway through last season after being released by the Riders. Watts, however, is seen as only a stop-gap until rookie John Congemi, Pitt's second all-time leading passer behind Dan Marino, comes of age.

While the quarterback position is the first order of business for O'Billovich, it's by no means the only area where improvement is needed. Wide receiver Terry Greer, who jumped to the Cleveland Browns, was never adequately replaced. Even though Chris Woods (Auburn) possesses speed and ability, his heart never seemed to be in an Argo uniform. He's played out his option and is expected to sign with an NFL club. The man now

expected to replace Greer is the one Greer beat out eight years ago—Calvin Muhammad (Texas Southern), who played in the NFL with the Raiders, Oilers, and Redskins. He'll have several challengers, including second-year man Ken Joiner (Kentucky State) and rookie Kevin Hairston (New Mexico State). Keith Baker (Texas Southern), a former Hamilton star, joined the Argos midway through last season after being cut by the Philadelphia Eagles. He should be the other wideout.

The Argos must also settle the running-back situation to gain some consistency. Cedric Minter (Boise State) returned after two sporadic seasons with the New York Jets, but didn't have time to re-establish himself as the No. 1 back. Another returning veteran, William Miller (Ouachita State), finished the season, and now the Argos have signed ex-Alouette Dwayne Wilson (Idaho State), who was the CFL's rookie of the year in 1984 but ran into disfavor in Montreal. The offensive line appears set with perennial all-star Dan Ferrone signed to a new long-term contract.

Defensively, the largest hole that O'Billovich must fill is at middle linebacker, where David Marshall moved to the Miami Dolphins after playing out his option. Gary Moten (Southern Methodist), who was obtained from Saskatchewan and played briefly when Marshall was



injured, could fill the vacancy. Willie Pless (Kansas), who had an outstanding rookie season, should be Schenley Award material if the Argos have a good year.

The concern in the secondary is whether veteran cornerback Carl Brazley (Western Kentucky) will re-sign with the club or try his hand in the NFL. Brazley, 29, claims he'd like to finish his career in Toronto, but wants guarantees in his contract which Cahill wasn't ready to give.

Hank Ilesic, the CFL's leading punter, also made noises about wanting out so that he can chase those large NFL bucks. However, he's still got three years remaining on his contract and the Argos aren't about to give him his freedom. In Ilesic and place-kicker Lance Chomyc, Toronto has the best combination in the league.

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

(3-14-1) The Rough Riders, no longer owned by radio station operator Allan Waters, are playing a new tune this season. It's called community ownership and it's been a big hit in western Canada for as long as there's been a CFL. The Riders joined the ranks of the five publicly owned West Division clubs when Waters, after years of incurring losses (\$1.4 million last year), turned the team over to a management group, which includes several former Rider players, for \$1.

The operating group got off on the right foot when it wooed Winnipeg Blue Bombers' general manager Paul Robson to the nation's capital. Robson wasted no time in going to his former club to hire Fred Glick as head coach. Glick, a 48-year-old Colorado native who played briefly with the St. Louis Cardinals and Houston Oilers, has been a CFL assistant since 1983 and served as interim head coach with Winnipeg when Cal Murphy suffered a heart attack in 1985.

Glick has many holes to plug in the Ottawa lineup and is realistic about his chances of filling them all at once. He's told people in Ottawa that he'd consider one win above the .500 mark a successful first season. He can begin his renovation job just about anywhere, although the secondary is probably his weakest unit. Willie Turner (Angelo State), picked up from Winnipeg in midseason, is the most experienced back. Cornerback Darryl Hall (San Diego State) spent time with Edmonton while Canadian rover Jerome Erdman has divided four seasons with Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, and Ottawa. Cornerback Calvin Loveall (Idaho) and safety Will Lewis (Millersville) were CFL rookies. Also vying for jobs are ex-Argo and Eskimo Dennis Clay (Oregon), Dale Thompson (Cal-Fullerton), who was taken from Edmonton in the equalization draft, and Canadian Jack McIntyre.

The Riders strengthened the linebacking and defensive line through the equalization draft. They grabbed tackle Mike Gray (Oregon), the CFL rookie of the year two seasons

ago with the B.C. Lions, and linebackers Craig Shaffer (Indiana State) of Edmonton and Calgary's Anthony Woodson (Hawaii). All should start. James Curry (Nevada-Reno), Loyd Lewis (Texas A & I), Mike Cline (Arkansas), and Eliapo Sala (Tulane) will be battling for the other line jobs, while Henry Taylor (Florida State) joins the linebacking derby.

Offensively, the Riders' big needs haven't changed through a succession of recent training camps: a wide receiver and slotback who can combine speed with good hands. Marc Lewis (Missouri Western), who gained 1,197 yards on 71 receptions, doesn't catch well in a crowd, but he grabs enough in the open to assure himself of a job. The coaches were also impressed with Brad Calip (East Central Oklahoma), who caught 43 passes after joining the team in mid-season. Mark Barousse (McNeese State) caught 71 passes for 893 yards, but a lack of speed could hurt his chances, especially if Glick decides to go with one Canadian slotback.

The offensive line, if nothing else, has size. It averages 6-4 and 265 pounds. The acquisition of 13-year veteran Marv Allemang from Hamilton in the equalization draft gave the Riders an experienced center, which made import Bill Kidd (Houston) expendable. Nick Benjamin, who was runner-up to Gray in the

The Riders had one of the best field goal-punting combinations in Dean Dorsey and Ken Clark last season. But Clark, 39, was contemplating retirement.

MONTREAL ALOUETTES

(4-14) A bad football team by any other name is still a bad football team. Just ask the fans in Montreal. After four dismal seasons as the Concordes, the franchise switched back to its former name in hopes of regaining its former glory. It didn't help. In fact, the reborn Alouettes won four fewer games and lost six more in the expanded 18-game schedule than the deceased Concordes. What that did was worsen the situation at the box office to a point where the club's majority owners, Charles Bronfman and Edmond Ricard, said, "Enough is enough."

Bronfman, who operates Seagram's and the baseball Expos, and Ricard, chairman of Imasco Ltd., turned over their interests in the club to minority owner Norm Kimball, the team's president and managing director, and his new partner, Jim Hole of Edmonton. Kimball, who played an important role in constructing the Eskimos' dynasty, reached back to his Edmonton days to hire Joe Faragalli, the former offensive coordinator of the Eskies, as his new head coach. The CFL's coach of the



DEAN DORSEY
Ottawa

'85 rookie voting, returns after a knee injury. Tackles Kevin Powell (Utah State) and Roger Cattelan (Boston), however, must improve their level of performance.

The Riders faced going into the season with three young quarterbacks after they finally gave up on veteran J.C. Watts (Oklahoma) midway through last year. Watts eventually signed with Toronto. But the Riders were able to swing a deal with their Western cousins which brought them Joe Paopao (Long Beach State). The much-traveled 32-year-old pivot will work alongside youngsters Gilbert Renfro (Tennessee State), who finished last season as No. 1, and Todd Dillon (Long Beach State). Jim Reid begins his ninth year as the fullback, but look for the Riders to return to an import tailback after using homebrew Robert Reid (no relation to Jim) there last season.

year in 1981, Faragalli had spent the past three years as an NFL assistant coach with Buffalo and Houston after being fired from his previous head coaching job with the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

The Als' biggest weakness is on the offensive line, which was further depleted by the trade of Canadian Trevor Bowles (San Jose State) to the Eskimos for quarterback Brad Taylor (Arkansas) and a first-round draft pick. The Als also lost homebrew guard Mike Palumbo (Washington State), who insists he'll retire unless he can play in his hometown of Calgary. The Als did pick up Sean McKeown, a three-year veteran from the Stampede, to fill part of the void, but Faragalli and his staff have evaluated all the Canadian linemen in the league and are hoping to swing a deal to bring one or two to Montreal.

TONY JOHNS
Montreal



Faragalli is confident his defense is good enough to make the Als competitive if he can improve the offense. The front four has a solid nucleus in eight-year veteran Doug Scott (Boise State), Brent Williams (Austin Peay), and pass-rush specialist Steve Raquet (Holy Cross). Rayford Cook (North Texas State) could step into the vacancy created by the trade of Sandy Armstrong to B.C.

Lamont Jeffers (Tennessee) and William Mitchell (Long Beach State), who spent the end of last season on the injury list, will battle Will Cokely (Kansas State) at middle linebacker, while Canadians Ken Ciancone (Utah State), Matt Finlay (Michigan State), and Mark Hopkins compete for the inside jobs. Dan Rashovich, who was obtained from Toronto in the equalization draft, couldn't come to terms with the Als and signed with the L.A. Raiders.

Mark Jackson (Abilene Christian), also obtained in the equalization draft from Edmonton, should help the secondary, where 12-year veteran Terry Irvin (Jackson State) rolls along after leading the league in interceptions last season with an even dozen.

The Als paid a price for Taylor, who has served as a backup in Edmonton for three seasons, but he is by no means a shoo-in as the No. 1 quarterback. The Als finished last year with Brian Ransom (Tennessee State) as the starter after the touted Walter Lewis (Alabama), signed out of the USFL, had trouble adapting to the Canadian game. Ransom, however, damaged a knee playing basketball during the winter and won't start the season. The Als have also signed Steve Calabria (Colgate), who had a brief tryout with Toronto.

Doctors gave the green light to tight end Nick Arakgi to resume playing. He missed all of '86 after suffering a spinal injury in a pre-season game. If the big Egyptian-born Arakgi can return to form, he would give Faragalli's offense a much needed boost. Shawn Faulkner (Western Michigan) returns as the incumbent running back, as does Canadian fullback Tony Johns (Henderson State). Ricky Porter (Slippery Rock) will give Faulkner competition.

The Als obtained Dave Ridgway as insurance behind place-kicker Roy Kurtz, who was injured last season. If Kurtz is deemed recovered, then look for Ridgway to be traded, possibly back to Saskatchewan for the offensive linemen the Als so badly require.

WESTERN DIVISION

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

(13-4-1) The Eskimos almost made it back to the top in one giant leap. After having their domination of the CFL (five straight Grey Cups) terminated in 1983, they lounged for three seasons in third place in the West. But last year they made it back to first place, finishing three points ahead of the B.C. Lions, who had replaced the Eskimos as the West's supreme team. However, after getting by the

BRENT WILLIAMS
Montreal



Calgary Stampeders and the Lions in the division playoffs, the Eskimos tripped over the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the championship game, losing 39-15.

Can the Eskies bounce back and repeat as western champions? They are strong in most areas, but they do have one weakness, the offensive line.

"Our major concern is at tackle," offered Hugh Campbell, who returned to Edmonton last season as general manager after three frustrating years as coach of the USFL's Los Angeles Express and then of the NFL's Houston Oilers. "Hector Pothier won't be back until after the fourth game and Bill Stevenson, well, he's a question mark. And then, of course, we've got a big hole in the secondary with Loo (Laurent DesLauriers) going down."

Pothier was nabbed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Winnipeg airport for possession of a small amount of marijuana last fall and immediately suspended for the balance of the season by CFL commissioner Doug Mitchell. As well, Mitchell ordered Pothier to miss the first four games of the 1987 season. Stevenson missed the entire '86 season with what was first suspected to be a heart attack, but later diagnosed as a virus. His status won't be determined until he arrives at camp and goes through his medical examination.

The Eskimos, in the meantime, weren't sitting still. They traded third-string quarterback Brad Taylor (Arkansas), who many feel would be a starter with another club, to Montreal for Canadian tackle Trevor Bowles (San Jose State). Bowles and veteran Rudy Phillips (North Texas State), a former Schenley Award winner with Ottawa, will likely start at the tackles. Leo Blanchard, a nine-year veteran, will move back to guard, as will Phillips when Pothier returns. Blake Dermott is the center.

NICK ARAKGI
Montreal



The rest of the offense returns intact from last season, when they were second only to the Blue Bombers in most offensive statistics. Starting quarterback Matt Dunigan (Louisiana Tech), entering his fifth year with the Eskies, will again have to fight off the challenge of Damon Allen (Cal-Fullerton), the younger brother of Marcus of the L.A. Raiders. Having traded Taylor to the Als, Edmonton was attempting to sign Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern), offering him the carrot of being able to play quarterback in the CFL.

The receiving corps remains talented with nine-year vet Brian Kelly (Washington State), who continues his quest to become the CFL's all-time pass-catching leader. He needs 144 receptions to surpass another former Eskimo, Tommy Joe Coffey's 650 career catches, and 1,295 yards to pass a third Edmonton star, Tom Scott's total of 10,837 yards. Kelly and Scott were teammates during the Eskies' five-year Grey Cup reign. A pair of Canadians, Marco Cyncar and Rick House, are the inside receivers, backed up by fine young homebrew Tom Richards.

MATT DUNIGAN
Edmonton



The Eskimos will field an all-Canadian backfield with running backs Milson Jones (North Dakota) and Chris Skinner. And to prove the rich get richer, they obtained University of Western Ontario's outstanding fullback, Blake Marshall, in the college draft.

Besides finding a replacement for DesLauriers, who may not be ready for the season's opener, coach Jack Parker's main task defensively will be to fill the void created by the loss of linebacker Craig Shaffer (Indiana State) to Ottawa in the equalization draft. Julio Cortez (Miami), Bruce Green (Texas Southern), and Sankar Montoute (St. Leo's) are candidates. Veteran Dan Bass (Michigan State) returns as the middle linebacker, while Bruce Green (Texas Southern) is the other outside backer.

The Eskimos will also take a long look at the defensive line, where only rush specialist Stewart Hill (Washington) seems set. Tom Tuinei (Hawaii), in his sixth season with the Eskimos, and James Zachery (Texas A & M), a four-year Eskimo and seventh-year CFLer, will be challenged by Ike Reardon (Hampton Institute) and Lloyd Mumphy (Mississippi Valley State).

Newcomers such as Renard Young (Nevada-Las Vegas), Duane Harmon (Long Beach State), and Stan Blair (Southeast Oklahoma) will provide competition in the secondary. However, it'll be third-year man Ron Howard (Tennessee) and sophomore Greg Harding (Nicholls State) on the corners with Cliff Toney (Auburn), who is back for his fourth season, and second-year man Jeff George (Illinois State) at the safety spots.

Punter/place-kicker Tom Dixon led the league in scoring with 190 points, nine more than his nearest rival, but he was inconsistent early in the year and Parker will definitely be looking for a more even performance from the third-year UBC product.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

(12-6) Getting old together may be idyllic for husband and wife, but for a football team it can mean trouble in paradise. And aging seems to be the problem about to catch up to

the Lions. After three straight first-place finishes in the West, the Lions found themselves playing second fiddle to the resurgent Edmonton Eskimos. The prospects for regaining top honors this year don't look all that good.

Compounding the problem is the loss of wide receiver Swervin' Mervyn Fernandez, the brilliant wide receiver and five-year veteran from San Jose State, who played out his option and became an instant millionaire when he signed with the NFL's Los Angeles Raiders. Even though injuries curtailed his playing time last season, he still managed 48 catches for 865 yards. In his four previous seasons, however, Fernandez was never under 1,000 yards and reached a zenith in 1985 when he grabbed 95 passes for 1,727 yards and 17 touchdowns. That was when the Raiders, who owned his NFL rights, began to drool.

The Lions' woes didn't end with the loss of Fernandez. His heir apparent, Jim Sandusky (San Diego State), who had been carefully groomed for three years, also became a free agent and at last report was being wooed by the New York Jets. A double loss may be simply too much for the Lions to overcome. Last season Sandusky was the Lions' leading receiver (60 catches), although he had less yardage than Fernandez (858). The Lions still have Ned Armour (San Diego State), 45 catches, 709 yards, but if Sandusky flees, coach Don Matthews may have to resort to a revamped attack with more running. Last year the Lions had the second-lowest rushing yardage in the league, while rating second in passing yardage. The inside passing game remains at high caliber with Canadians Jan Carinci (Maryland) and John Pankratz.

Roy Dewalt (Texas-Arlington), who signed a long-term pact with B.C. last season after unsuccessfully testing the NFL waters, was second in passing in 1986 with 314 completions in 556 attempts for 4,057 yards. There's some concern about a backup because the Lions snapped up another much damaged veteran pivot, Condredge Holloway (Tennessee), who was released by Toronto. That doesn't bode well for third-year pivot Karlton Watson (Winston-Salem).

If the Lions are forced to rely more and more on their running game, the man they'll look to is fullback Anthony Parker (Memphis State), who joined the team in midseason. He could be teamed with a Canadian fullback, whose main job would be to block. Otherwise, it will be either old reliable, 10-year veteran John Henry White (Louisiana Tech), or Ray Crouse, who spent two years with Green Bay after CFL stints with Calgary and Toronto before joining B.C. late last season.

The Lions' aging process was most noticeable along the offensive line. However, the average age dropped somewhat when 37-year-old center Al Wilson finally decided to call it quits after 15 seasons. The Lions would like to stay with a Canadian center, and Ian Sinclair (Miami) and Jamie Buis will get first crack at the job, but if they fail the position will fall to import Tim Ruiz (Utah State). The Lions also lost Glen Leonhard to retirement and they've got to wonder how much longer 32-year-old left tackle John Blain (San Jose State) will be around. Jim Mills (Hawaii) came in to play tackle after being cut by the Indianapolis Colts. If Buis doesn't make the switch to center, then he and Gerald Roper (Arizona) will return as the starting guards. But the Lions

are another team thinking American on the line. They're extremely high on Willard Scisum (Alabama), who spent four years with the Denver Broncos.

Defensively, the Lions found themselves with a huge problem when all-star end James "Quick" Parker (Wake Forest) tore up his knee playing racketball. He's gone for the year. Earlier, defensive tackle Mike Gray (Oregon) was lost to Ottawa in the equalization draft. Former Denver Bronco Walter Bowyer (Arizo-



JAMES PARKER
British Columbia



ROY DEWALT
British Columbia



STEWART HILL
Washington

na State) and ex-Philadelphia Eagle Ken Neil will compete for Parker's spot. Mike Taliffero (TCU), from the Arizona Wranglers, and ex-Alouette Sandy Armstrong (Colorado) are the leading candidates to replace Gray.

Linebacking will be a question with Tyrone Crews (Kansas State), celebrating his 31st birthday before the season begins, and Glenn Jackson, 33, and Kevin Konar, 28, coming off injuries. Crews, who was unsigned, could be replaced by Eugene Seale (Lamar), who was kept under wraps by the New Jersey Generals last season even though the USFL didn't play a down. Gregg Stumon (Southern Arkansas) finished the season on the outside along with Canadian John Ulmer (North Dakota), but Stumon may get a look in the middle.

The secondary, led by Darnell Clash (Wyoming), who was lost to the Lions for more than half the season with a knee injury, remains strong and deep. Keith Gooch (Fresno State) signed a new three-year contract.

Lui Passaglia remains one of the league's more reliable field-goal kickers, 39 of 56, but his punting average fell off a bit last year. Could that be a sign that age is, indeed, catching up to the Lions?

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

(11-7) There shouldn't be any complaints about a generation gap between the Blue Bomber players and their rookie head coach, Mike Riley. The 33-year-old son of former Bomber coach Bud Riley, now the player-personnel director with the Calgary Stampeders, finds himself in a unique situation of being younger than at least one of his players and the same age as a couple of others. But he doesn't see that as a problem.

One player Riley is familiar with is quarterback Tom Clements, who is also 33. They were opponents in college football, Clements as a quarterback at Notre Dame and Riley as a defensive back with Alabama. "I played against him in two bowl games, the Orange

and the Sugar," recalled Riley. "We lost both. I just hope he keeps winning those big games."

Clements has been doing just that in the CFL for the past 11 seasons, and there's no indication he's about to stop. He recently signed a new three-year contract that should assure the Bombers of a No. 1 quarterback until their apparent Tom Muecke (Baylor) is ready. For the past three seasons, the backup had been John Hufnagel (Penn State), but the 34-year-old joined Saskatchewan as a player/assistant coach after being claimed in the equalization draft. Former Seattle Seahawk Jim Zorn came in late last season after Clements was injured to work behind Hufnagel, but he's not expected to return this season.

The Bombers found themselves with a large hole in their receiving corps when nine-year veteran slotback Joe Poplawski decided to call it a career. The two-time Schenley winner as the CFL's outstanding Canadian, who'll be 30 in August, had always expressed a desire to quit while on top. He did just that. Last season, he caught 74 passes for 1,075 yards, the third-best total of his nine-year career after coming out of the University of Alberta. The rest of the receiving corps should remain intact. James Murphy (Utah State), who was selected by the Football Reporters of Canada as the CFL's outstanding player for 1986, and Jeff Boyd (Fullerton State) are the wide receivers with Perry Tuttle (Clemson) the other slotback. Murphy was the CFL's leading receiver last season (116 catches for 1,746 yards). His reception total broke the record (113) set two years earlier by the Toronto Argonauts' Terry Greer, now with the Cleveland Browns. Boyd rejoined Winnipeg last year after an unsuccessful NFL venture to catch 35 passes for 619 yards. The year before he caught 76 for 1,372 yards. Tuttle, a former first-round pick of the Buffalo Bills, caught 83 passes for 1,373 yards, giving the Bombers three 1,000-yard receivers.

The Bombers also have a potent 1,000-yard rusher in Willard Reaves (Northern Arizona), whose total was reduced to 498 yards last season by injuries. The two previous years

he easily topped the 1,000-yard barrier, gaining 1,700 yards in 1984 and winning the Schenley Award as the league's outstanding performer. Reaves was unhappy with the Bombers' demands that he take a pay cut and was threatening retirement. Riley, however, was expecting him at camp. If he didn't show, the Bombers wouldn't be taking too much of a backward step by using the much-traveled Lester Brown (Clemson). With the Bombers, who are his fifth CFL team, Brown emerged as the league's third-leading rusher last fall with 139 carries for 713 yards.

Defensively, Riley can showcase the league's best corps of linebackers. The quartet of Tyrone Jones (Southern), James West (Texas Southern), Darrell Patterson (Texas Christian), and Delbert Fowler (West Virginia) is simply awesome.

Riley doesn't share some of the Bomber critics' concerns about the secondary. The club hadn't signed veteran Ken Hailey (San Francisco State), but Riley was optimistic he'd be in training camp. A re-signed Hailey would join Roy Bennett (Jackson State), who had eight interceptions last season, one of which he returned for 101 yards; James Jefferson (Texas A & I), Bennie Thompson (Grambling), and Canadian Scot Flagel.

The major task facing Riley is to rebuild the defensive line. End Tony Norman (Iowa State) was released after seven seasons. His replacement will come from among holdover John Sturdivant (Maryland), Andre Pinsett (Fullerton State), a former Edmonton Eskimo, and Fred Worthy, who saw service with both B.C. and Calgary the past two seasons. Hasson Arbubakrr (Texas Tech), is the other end, while Canadian Sam Mikawos (North Dakota) is the nose tackle.

Little (5-foot-6) kicker Trevor Kennerd had one of his worst seasons in 1986 after missing part of the campaign with an injury. He's back healthy, but will get competition from rookie Matt MacLeod (Oregon). Bob Cameron, who is also of the same generation as Riley, returns as the punter.

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

(11-7) The Stampeders rose from their death-bed last season to write one of the better success stories in CFL history. When it became all too clear that the financially plagued team could not carry on as a publicly owned entity and no one in the private sector was willing to put up the money to purchase the club, the citizens of Calgary came forth and responded to a season-ticket drive that saved the team from extinction.

The club in turn responded to the support, improving from 3-13 in 1985 to 11-7 and making the playoffs. The Stamps, led by the quarterbacking of Rick Johnson (Southern Illinois), played winning and entertaining football to assure that the season-ticket holders would be tempted to renew their subscriptions.

Johnson, who was far from impressive in his rookie season, won the No. 1 job last year after veteran Joe Barnes (Texas Tech) was cut adrift. He took over in dynamic fashion, throwing a league-leading 604 passes, the second-highest number thrown in a season in CFL history, for 4,379 yards. However, his 50 percent completion average was the poorest among the league's regular pivots. Now, with the year's experience, Johnson should be able to upgrade his rate to move into the company of the league's top quarterbacks.



TOM CLEMENTS
Winnipeg



JEFF BOYD
Winnipeg

Johnson will have to do without his favorite target, Ray Alexander (Florida A & M), who played out his option and signed with the Dallas Cowboys. There's the possibility, though, that Alexander, who failed to catch on with two other NFL teams in previous trials, could be back. In the meantime, the Stampeders have holdover Larry Ray Willis (Fresno State) and Tony Woodruff (Fresno State) and newcomer Bruce Davis (Baylor), who qualified for the 1980 U.S. Olympic team as a sprinter, on hand as wide receivers, while Emanuel Tolbert (Southern Methodist) returns at slotback after catching 69 passes for 1,286 yards. The Stampeders are also contemplating the return to a two-tight-end system, which they once



RICK JOHNSON
Calgary

employed so effectively with the likes of Herman Harrison and Willie Armstead. The Stamps have signed rookies Mark Gehring (Washington) and Malcolm Scott (Louisiana State) for the position.

Running back Gary Allen (Hawaii) was the league's leading rusher and the only one to top the 1,000-yard mark (1,153). However, his problems away from the field, which included troubles with the police as well as simply missing team flights and meetings, make him an unsure commodity for this season. Dwight Beverley (Illinois), who was injured in the second game of the season and lost the job to Allen, will be back to attempt to regain the position. Kirby Wilson (Pacific) is also seeking to unseat Allen.

The offensive line is a collection of CFL re-treads and rejects, which necessitated the employment of one of the league's few import offensive linemen: George Gilbert (Tulsa). In anticipation of continuing in that vogue, the Stamps signed David Wright (BYU).

Defensively, head coach Bob Vespaziani has several holes to fill. The Stampeders lost middle linebacker Anthony Woodson (Hawaii) to Ottawa in the equalization draft, while cornerback Mel Jenkins was expected to try his luck in the NFL. Garcia Lane (Ohio State), who joined the team late last year, is the top candidate to replace Jenkins. Replacing Woodson won't be as easy. Bernie Morrison and Alvis Satele (Hawaii), a pass-rush specialist, were the outside backers last year.

Harold Hallman (Auburn), who won a Schenley Award as the CFL's rookie of the year, anchors the defense along with veteran end Vince Goldsmith (Oregon). Vespaziani

will be attempting to upgrade his Canadian content beyond the levels provided by Eugene Belliveau and Stu Laird. Kent Warnock, the club's No. 1 draft pick last season, was a disappointment, but the Stampeders are hoping he'll be more effective this year. The Stamps have also signed defensive tackle Pat Langdon (Tennessee), who was the Winnipeg Blue Bombers' No. 1 pick two years ago.

Other than Jenkins, the secondary should return intact. Safeties Larry Hogue (Utah State) and 5-foot-6 Richie Hall (Colorado State) start their fifth season with the Stampeders, while cornerback Larry Hopkins (Murray State) and Canadian rover Greg Peterson (BYU) are entering their fourth year.

The Stampeders' kicking game is sound with veteran place-kicker J.T. Hay, who was successful on 70.2 percent of his league-leading 57 attempts, and Glenn Harper (Washington State), who had the CFL's fourth-best punting average last year as a rookie.

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

(6-11-1) The Roughriders got what they wanted last year when the CFL altered their long-standing playoff format to allow four teams from the Western Division to make the playoffs, while only two advanced from the East. But it didn't do them any good. They finished fifth in the West, missing the playoffs for the 10th straight time. And prospects for this season don't appear much better, which means the Riders could be in big trouble at the gate.

Last year, the franchise, which was once considered the strongest in the CFL, lost more than \$1 million. And as a community-owned team it can't stand to suffer losses of that magnitude for too many seasons. There are no corporations or sugar daddies to pick up the tab as a tax write-off. Even with a trimmed payroll the Riders need a minimum of 20,000-22,000 in the stands for every home game just to break even. Last year they averaged about 18,000. That chewed up the last of the club's once-healthy reserve fund and left it with a deficit of \$700,000 entering this season.

The Riders are starting from scratch in their efforts to survive. They fired general manager Bill Quinter and coach Jack Gotta. Replacing Quinter is former Rider and B.C. Lions' star Bill Baker, an intimidating defensive lineman in his playing days. John Gregory, the Blue Bombers' offensive line coach for the past four years, was named the new head coach. They'll have to turn things around rather quickly. If the team stumbles out of the starting blocks, fans are going to stay away.

"It's not that people out here are against football," said one local sage. "They're just against bad football."

There aren't too many areas where the Riders don't need to renovate. The quarterback position will get another overhaul after the trade of veteran Joe Paopao (Long Beach State) to Ottawa for former Colgate star Tom Burgess. Paopao, 32 and carrying a large salary, became expendable when the Riders grabbed former Blue Bomber quarterback John Hufnagel, who was originally signed as an assistant coach but whose playing rights were obtained in the equalization draft. Burgess, holdover Miker Kelly (Georgia Tech), and rookie Jeff Bentrim (North Dakota State) will compete for the starting job, but Hufnagel will be available if all three falter.

Things went from bad to worse when running back Bobby Johnson (San Jose State)

suffered a damaged vertebra in his neck late in the season. Examinations revealed that Johnson, who rushed for 869 yards and 12 touchdowns before the injury, had suffered a similar injury which had gone undetected in his college career. As camp neared his status remained a question mark as the club sought every assurance that he would not be in danger of suffering permanent damage before allowing him back in uniform. Mindful of that possibility, the Riders snatched Walter Bender (Kent State) from Hamilton in the equalization draft. Bender had 618 rushing yards for the Ticats, which made him the fourth-leading rusher in the pass-happy CFL. The Riders have an alternative of going with a pair of Canadian running backs, with Denis Ferdinand supplying the bulk of the ball-carrying and 225-pound David Conrad providing the blocking. Going that route would free an import at a receiver position.

Ron Brown (Colorado) and Tron Armstrong (Eastern Kentucky) will battle Daric Zeno (Central State) and a host of newcomers at



EDDIE LOWE
Saskatchewan

wide receiver. Canadian Ray Elgaard, who gained 1,003 yards on 55 catches, has a hold on one slotback position, but the other side could be up for grabs, especially if Gregory can employ three import receivers.

The offensive line, led by Schenley Award winner Roger Aldag, is the one stable area on offense. In fact, it's the one spot where the Riders might be stronger, with nine-year veteran Neil Quilter returning healthy after missing most of last year with a knee injury.

Defensively, the Riders lost tackle Gary Lewis (Oklahoma State), who decided to test the NFL waters rather than take a pay cut. End Scott Virkus (Purdue) retired to pursue a career as a professional slow-pitch softball player. Canadians Nick Hebler and Rick Goltz, a pair of former B.C. Lions, are the only solid

returnees on the line. Import Bobby Jurasin (Northern Michigan) will have to fight off competition to retain his job.

Linebacking is a solid spot. Outside backers Eddie Lowe (Alabama) and Billy Jackson (Mississippi State) are on a par with the league's better players at that position. Dave Albright (San Jose State) showed some ability against the run, but he lacks speed.

The coaches seemed to like what they saw of cornerbacks Trent Bryant (Arkansas) and Mike McGruder (Kent State) on film. That would leave Harry Skipper (South Carolina), a former CFL all-star who failed in his bid to catch on with the Cleveland Browns last year, vulnerable. The inside spots are also unsettled.

The Riders' kicking game? They don't have one. They lost place-kicker Dave Ridgway to Montreal in a trade. Unless they can get Ridgway back they might have to press backup receiver Mike McTague (North Dakota State), who is also the club's punter, into that role. It's not an ideal situation, but on a club with as many problems as the Riders, it's probably one of the less serious ones.

new american imports

AND CANADIANS WHO
ATTENDED U.S. COLLEGES

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

Horace Barrett, DB, *North Carolina Central*; Kevin Bowman, WR, *San Jose State* (*San Francisco-NFL*); Walt Bowyer, DL, *Arizona State* (*Denver-NFL*); Fred Brockington, WR, *Michigan*; Tim Burnham, OT, *Washington* (*Seattle-NFL*); Tony Caldwell, LB, *Washington* (*L.A. Raiders-NFL*); Jack Campbell, OT, *Utah* (*L.A.-USFL*); James Feguson, WR, *Sacramento State*; Martin French, DB, *USC*; Dan Hurley, OT, *Nebraska* (*Portland-USFL*); Gary Kimble, DB, *Sam Houston State*; Keith Magee, WR, *San Jose State*; Nat Miller, DB, *Cameron State* (*Denver-USFL*); Sam Moore, WR, *Sam Houston State* (*L.A. Rams-NFL*); Ken Neil, DE, *Iowa State* (*Philadelphia-NFL*); Hank Norman, WR,

USC; Willard Scissum, OG, *Alabama* (*Denver-NFL*); Eugene Seale, LB, *Lamar* (*New Jersey-USFL*); Mike Talferro, DT, *TCU* (*Arizona-USFL*); Mark Turner, DL, *Miami-OH*; Kevin Villars, WR, *Weber State* (*St. Louis-NFL*); Frank Frazier, DL, *Miami*; Darryl Hemphill, DB, *North Texas State*; Lafo Malaulu, WR, *San Jose State*; Robbie Minor, WR, *Iowa State*; Chris Pacheco, DT, *Fresno State*; Tim Ruiz, C, *Utah State*; Drew Smetana, OT, *Oregon*; Glen Soule, WR, *Angelo State*; Marcus Thomas, WB, *Wyoming*

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

Calvin Adams, DB, *East Carolina* (*Hamilton-CFL*); Dwight Beverley, RB, *Illinois*; Bruce Davis, WR, *Baylor* (*Cleveland-NFL*); Mark Gehring, TE, *Washington*; Brendell Hopkins, DL, *Grambling*; Patrick Langdon, DL, *Tennessee*; David Lee McCrary, DB, *Tennessee-Chattanooga*; Reggie Oliver, LB, *Northern Michigan* (*San Antonio-USFL*); Malcolm Scott, TE, *LSU*; David Wright, OG, *BYU*; Darryl Austin, DB, *Texas A&M*; Ricky Chatman, LB, *LSU*; John Esteban, WR, *Carroll College*; Mike Fitzsimmons, DE, *Mississippi*; Carl Fodor, QB, *Marshall*; Jimmie Hawkins, DB, *Texas A&M*; Clyde Johnson, DB, *Kansas*; Garcia Lane, DB, *Ohio State*; Steve Lyle, WR, *Portland State*; Rydell Malancon, LB, *LSU*; Benny Pegram, LB, *N.C. State*; Shawn Poole, OT, *Montana*; Darryl Toussaint, DB, *Northwestern State*; Greg Walker, OT, *Mississippi*; Ron Wheeler, TE, *Washington*

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

Stanford Baker, WR, *Olivet*; Doug Barnet, C, *Azusa-Pacific* (*L.A. Rams-NFL*); Kevin Biggers, DB, *Nebraska*; Stanley Blair, CB, *Southeast Oklahoma*; Julio Cortes, LB, *Miami*; Mike Grant, WR, *Central Washington*; Dwayne Harmon, CB, *Long Beach State*; Darrel Hopper, CB, *USC*; Fletcher Jenkins, DE, *Washington*; Stan Johnson, WR, *Wisconsin-LaCrosse*; Sankar Montoute, LB, *St. Leo's*; Isaac Reardon, DL, *Hampton Institute*; Brian Warren, LB, *Arizona*; Renard Young, DB, *UNLV*; Bruce Green, LB, *Texas Southern*; Ron Jenkins, WR, *Colorado State*; Kevin Maloney, DB, *Colorado*; Lloyd Mumphy, DE, *Mississippi Valley State*

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

Jeff Bentrin, QB, *North Dakota State*; Craig Birdsong, DB, *North Texas State*; Bill Bonitati, DL, *Rhode Island*; Todd Brown, WR, *Nebraska*; Jim Dick, LB, *North Dakota State*; Rod Fisher, DB, *Oklahoma State*; Eric Florence, *Santa Clara*; Norris Gibbs, DB, *Southern*; Dwayne Hughes, LB, *Monmouth*; George Mack, WR, *Ithaca*; Todd McArthur, DB, *McNeese State*; Otha McCoy, DB, *Grambling*; J.R. McKenna, LB, *Mississippi State*; Art Price, LB, *Wisconsin*; Jeff Roberts, DE, *Tulane*; Joe Stepanek, DL, *Minnesota*; Vince Thomson, DT, *Missouri Western*; Howard Wade, DL, *Stephen F. Austin*; John Walker, DL, *Nebraska-Omaha*; Tom Burgess, QB, *Colgate* (*Ottawa-CFL*)

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

Thomas Dendy, RB, *South Carolina*; Mike LeBlanc, RB, *Stephen F. Austin*; Ken Pettway, DB, *Cal-Berkeley*; Andre Pinsett, DE, *Cal-Fullerton* (*Edmonton-CFL*); Darrell Woods, DB, *Jackson State*; Fred Worthy, DT, *Clemson* (*B.C.-CFL*); Thanh Anderson, DB, *Vanderbilt*; Greg Battle, LB, *Arizona State*; Keith Biggers, LB, *USC*; Sheldon Gaines, LB, *Long Beach State*; Karl Jordan, DL, *Vanderbilt*; Pete Riley,

DB, *Livingston*; Ron Robinson, WR, *Utah State* (*B.C.-CFL*); Ken Winey, WR, *Southern*; Darren Yewchyn, WR, *College of the Siskiyous*

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

Gerald Browner, DT, *L.A. Harbor Jr. College*; Jeff Ellis, DE, *Memphis State*; Tom Flaherty, DE, *Northwestern*; Kevin Hairston, WR, *New Mexico State*; Slip Lane, DB, *Mississippi* (*N.Y. Jets-NFL*); Marcus Marek, LB, *Ohio State* (*Breakers-USFL*); Calvin Muhammad, WR, *Texas Southern* (*Washington-NFL*); Joe Phillips, SB, *Kentucky*; Kirk Phillips, WR, *Tulsa*; Reggie Pleasant, DB, *Clemson*; Tom Polley, LB, *UNLV*; Kelly Quinn, DE, *Michigan State*; Lewis Rash, DB, *Mississippi Valley State*; Tom Streeter, DB, *Colorado*; Dimitrios Thompson, WR, *Langston College*; Gary Thompson, DB, *College of the Redwoods* (*Edmonton-CFL*); Paul Tripoli, DB, *Alabama*; Dwayne Wilson, RB, *Idaho State* (*Montreal-CFL*)

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

Dennis Allen, WR, *Kansas State*; Wayne Ashberry, DB, *Texas A&M*; Kyle Finney, WR, *Delta State*; Ken Ford, LB, *Texas A&M*; Mike Gray, DL, *Oregon* (*B.C.-CFL*); Mark Harrison, RB, *Wisconsin*; Joe McHale, LB, *Delaware*; Reno Patterson, DL, *Bethune-Cookman*; Stacey Price, LB, *Arkansas State*; Carlton Rose, LB, *Michigan* (*Memphis-USFL*); Craig Shaffer, LB, *Indiana State* (*Edmonton-CFL*); Fred Smalls, LB, *West Virginia*; Thomas Stenglein, WR, *Colgate*; Dwight Storay, CB, *Utah State*; Vince Villanucci, DL, *Bowling Green*; Carl Williams, WR, *Louisville*; Anthony Woodson, LB, *Hawaii* (*Calgary-CFL*); Rodrick Brown, DB, *Oklahoma State*; Joe Charles, RB, *Montana*; Cornelius Dozier, LB, *SMU*; Joe Paopao, QB, *Long Beach State* (*Saskatchewan-CFL*); Troy Smith, WR, *Texas Tech*; Jeff Wickersham, QB, *LSU*; Tommie Williams, DB, *Texas A&M*

MONTREAL ALOUETTES

Greg Best, DB, *Kansas State*; James Cofer, LB, *Carson-Newman*; Will Cokely, LB, *Kansas State*; Carter Crawford, DT, *Arkansas State*; Issac Griffin, DE, *Michigan State*; Steve Griffin, WR, *Purdue*; Vince Hall, RB, *Middle Tennessee State*; James Harris, LB, *Grambling*; Mark Jackson, DB, *Abilene Christian* (*Edmonton-CFL*); Judious Lewis, WR, *Arkansas State*; David Martin, CB, *Villanova*; Vince Mattaliano, LB, *Southern Connecticut State*; Victor Oatis, WR, *Northwestern*; Ken Parker, DE, *Georgia Tech*; Ricky Porter, RB, *Slippery Rock*; Dwayne Pugh, LB, *Illinois*; Terry Shaw, SB, *Utah*; Brad Taylor, QB, *Arkansas* (*Edmonton-CFL*); Mike Thurman, CB, *James Madison*; Calvin Turner, DT, *West Virginia*; Don Wilson, DB, *North Carolina State*

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

Alvin Bailey, DB, *Alcorn State* (*Tampa-USFL*); Gary Burton, LB, *Arkansas State*; Jimmie Carter, LB, *New Mexico* (*Detroit-NFL*); William Cotman, DB, *Emporia State* (*New Jersey-USFL*); Darnell Dailey, LB, *Maryland*; Keith Fourcade, LB, *Mississippi* (*Memphis-USFL*); Robert Goins, DB, *Grambling*; Wyatt Henderson, WR, *Fresno State*; Lawrence Jackson, DL, *Presbyterian College*; Doug Landry, LB, *Louisiana Tech* (*San Diego-NFL*); Johnny Lewis, NT, *Oklahoma*; Anthony Ketchum, WR, *Houston*; Marlon McIntyre, FB, *Pittsburgh*; Andrew Mowatt, WR, *Ohio State*; Jonathan Norris, DL, *American International*; Woody Pippens, FB, *Thiel College*; William Robinson, DB, *Arizona State*; Dan Sellers, DE, *Cincinnati*; Joe Smith, WR, *Alabama*



RAY ELGAARD
Saskatchewan

IN THE SHADOW OF THE STARS

continued from page 24

opens up all kinds of opportunities for Payton and the Bears' offense. Safeties who ordinarily would play close like linebackers to stuff Payton now must backpedal to help cornerbacks run with Gault. "Defenses have to be aware of where he lines up on every play," said Bill Tobin, the Bears' director of player personnel.

True, there never will be a spot in the Pro Bowl for a decoy. But there ought to be room in the minds of football fans for Gault wherever overshadowed players are discussed.

Max Montoya, guard Cincinnati Bengals

You mean Anthony Munoz? The guy from USC? No. Max Montoya. The guy from UCLA. Munoz is the best tackle in football, or close enough to prevent prolonged argument. Montoya plays on the same line, with similar results and dissimilar credit. Eight years after joining the Bengals as a seventh-round draft choice, Montoya finally was voted to the Pro Bowl last season, where fans promptly confused him with Munoz.

"Montoya may be the best pass-blocking guard in the league," said Jim McNally, Cincinnati's offensive line coach.

McNally uses a grading system he learned from Jerry Wampfler of the Green Bay Packers to gauge the effectiveness of his blockers. In 451 pass plays last season when Montoya

had to block someone, he gave up only one sack and only eight quarterback pressures.

"That means we can throw 49 times and the pass rusher over Montoya won't get close to our quarterback," McNally said. "Anything in the 20s is good, so Montoya's a great pass protector."

McNally calls Munoz "the best athlete ever to play in the line." He joined the league as a No. 1 draft choice and has only enhanced his reputation. But as is often the case, the prowess of one player has overshadowed the skill of another. "Montoya is a tough guy who deserves more recognition," said McNally, who was eager to provide his own list of underpublicized linemen. "I have not seen a better right tackle than a kid at Pittsburgh named Tunch Ilkin. That sonofagun can play."

Bill Pickel, nose tackle Los Angeles Raiders

The Raiders have led the AFC in quarterback sacks for four seasons, which happen to coincide with the career of Bill Pickel. Who is the Raiders' leading sacker for the last three years combined?

Howie Long, of course. No? Then it must be Greg Townsend. No? What about Sean Jones? Rod Martin? No.

It's Bill Pickel. The Raiders have all kinds of good quarterback sackers. The unusual thing

about Pickel is he plays nose tackle. Those guys aren't supposed to sack quarterbacks; they're supposed to sacrifice their own bodies so flashy teammates can get the glory.

True, teams double- and triple-team Long. But they do the same thing to Pickel. If one doesn't get through, the other will.

Mel Owens, linebacker Los Angeles Rams

Owens was a No. 1 draft choice in 1981, the Lawrence Taylor-E.J. Junior-Hugh Green year. No wonder he is overlooked. Owens was the ninth player drafted that year but the fourth linebacker. He didn't start a game as a rookie and never had a chance to get mentioned in the same company as the first three. But Owens has developed into a much better than adequate outside linebacker. He hasn't always done it quietly, either. When Rams' cornerback Gary Green had an all-pro season in 1985, Owens analyzed the reasons for it.

"I'm playing in front of him," Owens said. "Teams just don't run or pass to my side. I'm serious. Teams are mostly right-handed, and just watch how often they'll come my way. They can't run on me. There's no tight end who can really block me, physically beat me."

With that kind of public relations going for him, how much longer can this guy linger in the shadows?

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GIANTS

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STATISTICS

RECORDS:

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)

Touchdowns: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

Field goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983)

Extra points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Minnesota	48	14	31	3	44	48	22	28	0	398
San Francisco	43	16	21	6	41	43	25	35	0	374
Giants	42	18	22	2	41	42	26	37	0	371
Washington	46	23	22	1	38	45	18	32	0	368
Chicago	38	21	12	5	36	38	28	41	2	352
Dallas	43	21	21	1	43	43	15	21	0	346
Rams	37	16	15	6	34	36	17	24	1	309
New Orleans	30	15	13	2	30	30	26	30	0	288
Atlanta	30	12	14	4	29	30	23	36	1	280
Detroit	32	13	18	1	31	32	18	25	0	277
Philadelphia	28	8	19	1	26	27	20	31	1	256
Green Bay	29	8	18	3	29	29	17	27	0	254
Tampa Bay	27	12	13	2	26	27	17	24	0	239
St. Louis	27	8	17	2	23	27	11	24	0	218

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Butler, Kevin, Chi.	36	37	28	41	120
Wersching, Ray, S.F.	41	42	25	35	116
Nelson, Chuck, Minn.	44	47	22	28	110
Andersen, Morten, N.O.	30	30	26	30	108
Allegre, Raul, Giants	33	33	24	32	105
Septien, Rafael, Dall.	43	43	15	21	88
McFadden, Paul, Phil.	26	27	20	31	86
Lansford, Mike, Rams	34	35	17	24	85
Murray, Ed, Del.	31	32	18	25	85
Del Greco, Al, G.B.	29	29	17	27	80
Igwebuike, Donald, T.B.	26	27	17	24	77
Luckhurst, Mick, Atl.	21	21	14	24	63
Zendejas, Max, Wash.	23	28	9	14	50
Lee, John, St. L.	14	17	8	13	38
Haji-Sheikh, Ali, Atl.	7	8	9	12	34
Schubert, Eric, St. L.	9	9	3	11	18
Cooper, Joe, Giants	4	4	2	4	10
Cox, Steve, Wash.	0	0	3	5	9
Thomas, Bob, Giants	4	4	0	1	4
Atkinson, Jess, Wash.	3	3	0	0	3
Donnelly, Rick, Atl.	1	1	0	0	1

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Rogers, George, Wash.	18	18	0	0	108
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	16	1	15	0	96
Morris, Joe, Giants	15	14	1	0	90
Walker, Herschel, Dall.	14	12	2	0	84
Dickerson, Eric, Rams	11	11	0	0	66
Payton, Walter, Chi.	11	8	3	0	66
Jones, James, Del.	9	8	1	0	54
Quick, Mike, Phil.	9	0	9	0	54
Riggs, Gerald, Atl.	9	9	0	0	54
Mayes, Rueben, N.O.	8	8	0	0	48
Bryant, Kelvin, Wash.	7	4	3	0	42
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	7	0	7	0	42
Clark, Gary, Wash.	7	0	7	0	42
Craig, Roger, S.F.	7	7	0	0	42
Nelson, Darrin, Minn.	7	4	3	0	42
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	6	5	1	0	36
Green, Roy, St. L.	6	0	6	0	36
Jackson, Kenny, Phil.	6	0	6	0	36
Jordan, Steve, Minn.	6	0	6	0	36
Smith, J.T., St. L.	6	0	6	0	36

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Chadwick, Jeff, Del.	5	0	5	0	30
Cribbs, Joe, S.F.	5	5	0	0	30
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	5	5	0	0	30
Gault, Willie, Chi.	5	0	5	0	30
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	5	5	0	0	30
Johnson, Bobby, Giants	5	0	5	0	30
Magee, Calvin, T.B.	5	0	5	0	30
Martin, Eric, N.O.	5	0	5	0	30
Mitchell, Stump, St. L.	5	5	0	0	30
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	5	2	3	0	30
Redden, Barry, Rams	5	4	1	0	30
Rice, Allen, Minn.	5	2	3	0	30
Sanders, Thomas, Chi.	5	5	0	0	30
Sherrard, Mike, Dall.	5	0	5	0	30
Thompson, Leonard, Del.	5	0	5	0	30
Young, Steve, T.B.	5	5	0	0	30
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	4	2	2	0	24
Bavaro, Mark, Giants	4	0	4	0	24
Brown, Charlie, Atl.	4	0	4	0	24
Brown, Ted, Minn.	4	4	0	0	24
Carruth, Paul, G.B.	4	2	2	0	24
Didier, Clint, Wash.	4	0	4	0	24
Ellard, Henry, Rams	4	0	4	0	24
Epps, Phillip, G.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Giles, Jimmie, T.B.-Del.	4	0	4	0	24
Jones, Hassan, Minn.	4	0	4	0	24
Lofton, James, G.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Monk, Art, Wash.	4	0	4	0	24
Anderson, Otis, St. L.-Giants	3	3	0	0	18
Brown, Ron, Rams	3	0	3	0	18
Ellerson, Gary, G.B.	3	3	0	0	18
Ferrell, Earl, St. L.	3	0	3	0	18
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	3	1	0	2	18
Hill, Tony, Dall.	3	0	3	0	18
Irvin, LeRoy, Rams	3	0	0	3	18
James, Garry, Del.	3	3	0	0	18
Jones, Mike, N.O.	3	0	3	0	18
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	3	0	3	0	18
Renfro, Mike, Dall.	3	0	3	0	18
Rouson, Lee, Giants	3	2	1	0	18
Sikahema, Vai, St. L.	3	0	1	2	18
Stanley, Walter, G.B.	3	0	2	1	18
Tice, John, N.O.	3	0	3	0	18
Tomczak, Mike, Chi.	3	3	0	0	18

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Whisenhunt, Ken, Atl.	3	0	3	0	18
Wilder, James, T.B.	3	2	1	0	18
Wonsley, Nathan, T.B.	3	3	0	0	18
Young, Mike, Rams	3	0	3	0	18
Allen, Anthony, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12
Bland, Carl, Del.	2	0	2	0	12
Carter, Gerald, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Chandler, Thornton, Dall.	2	0	2	0	12
Clark, Dwight, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	2	0	2	0	12
Ellis, Gerry, G.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Frank, John, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
Franklin, Pat, T.B.	2	0	1	1	12
Freeman, Phil, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Goodlow, Eugene, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Gustafson, Jim, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Holmoe, Tom, S.F.	2	0	0	2	12
House, Kevin, Rams	2	0	2	0	12
Lewis, Leo, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Lewis, Mark, G.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Marshall, Wilber, Chi.	2	0	0	2	12
Miller, Solomon, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Mowatt, Zeke, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Mularkey, Mike, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Ortego, Keith, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Robinson, Stacy, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	2	0	2	0	12
Suhey, Matt, Chi.	2	2	0	0	12
Tautalatasi, Junior, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Williams, Scott, Del.	2	2	0	0	12
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Andrews, William, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Austin, Cliff, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Barnes, Lew, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
Britt, James, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Browner, Joey, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Butler, Bobby, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Byars, Keith, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Carson, Harry, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
Cosbie, Doug, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Cox, Arthur, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
Crawford, Charles, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Cromwell, Nolan, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
Davis, Kenneth, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
DeBerg, Steve, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Doleman, Chris, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Duckworth, Bobby, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Everett, Jim, Rams	1	1	0	0	6
Fellows, Ron, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Flutie, Doug, Chi.	1	1	0	0	6
Flynn, Tom, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Fox, Chas, St. L.	1	0	1	0	6
Francis, Russ, S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
Garity, Gregg, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Gray, Mel, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Griffin, Don, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Harmon, Derrick, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
Haynes, James, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Heflin, Vince, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Heller, Ron, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Hill, David, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Holt, Issiac, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Howard, Bobby, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Hunter, Herman, Del.	1	0	1	0	6
Ivery, Eddie Lee, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Jerue, Mark, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Ron, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Jordan, Buford, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	1	1	0	0	6
Lavette, Robert, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Lewis, David, <i>Det.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Lomax, Neil, <i>St. L.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Lott, Ronnie, <i>S.F.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Mandley, Pete, <i>Det.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Manley, Dexter, <i>Wash.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Martin, George, <i>Giants</i>	1	0	0	1	6
McConkey, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	1	0	1	0	6
McKyer, Tim, <i>S.F.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
McMahon, Jim, <i>Chi.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Moorehead, Emery, <i>Chi.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Moroski, Mike, <i>S.F.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Newberry, Tom, <i>Rams</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Nixon, Tony, <i>S.F.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Orr, Terry, <i>Wash.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Pelluer, Steve, <i>Dall.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Pitts, Mike, <i>Atl.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Rathman, Tom, <i>S.F.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Ross, Dan, <i>G.B.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Schonert, Turk, <i>Atl.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Schroeder, Jay, <i>Wash.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Simmons, John, <i>G.B.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Simms, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Spagnola, John, <i>Phil.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Stamps, Sylvester, <i>Atl.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Stills, Ken, <i>G.B.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Toney, Anthony, <i>Phil.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Warren, Don, <i>Wash.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
West, Ed, <i>G.B.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
White, Danny, <i>Dall.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Williams, Joel, <i>Atl.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Williams, Keith, <i>Atl.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Wilson, Dave, <i>N.O.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Wilson, Mike, <i>S.F.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Wilson, Wade, <i>Minn.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Wright, Randy, <i>G.B.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Brown, Greg, <i>Phil.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Gann, Mike, <i>Atl.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Hampton, Dan, <i>Chi.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Jeter, Gary, <i>Rams</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
McMichael, Steve, <i>Chi.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2

*Safety

RUSHING

RECORDS:

Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984)

Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984)

TDs: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Chicago	606	2700	4.5	175	21
Atlanta	578	2524	4.4	48	12
Rams	578	2457	4.3	142	16
Giants	558	2245	4.0	54	18
New Orleans	505	2074	4.1	50	15
Philadelphia	499	2002	4.0	50	8
San Francisco	510	1986	3.9	129	16
Dallas	447	1969	4.4	184	21
Tampa Bay	455	1863	4.1	159	12
St. Louis	419	1787	4.3	44	8
Detroit	470	1771	3.8	160	13
Minnesota	461	1738	3.8	60	14
Washington	474	1732	3.7	42	23
Green Bay	424	1614	3.8	50	8

5 or more yards

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Dickerson, Eric, <i>Rams</i>	404	1821	4.5	142	11
Morris, Joe, <i>Giants</i>	341	1516	4.4	54	14
Mayes, Rueben, <i>N.O.</i>	286	1353	4.7	50	8
Payton, Walter, <i>Chi.</i>	321	1333	4.2	41	8
Riggins, Gerald, <i>Atl.</i>	343	1327	3.9	31	9
Rogers, George, <i>Wash.</i>	303	1203	4.0	42	18
Jones, James, <i>Det.</i>	252	903	3.6	39	8
Craig, Roger, <i>S.F.</i>	204	830	4.1	25	7
Mitchell, Stump, <i>St. L.</i>	174	800	4.6	44	5
Nelson, Darrin, <i>Minn.</i>	191	793	4.2	42	4
Dorsett, Tony, <i>Dall.</i>	184	748	4.1	33	5
Walker, Herschel, <i>Dall.</i>	151	737	4.9	184	12
Wilder, James, <i>T.B.</i>	190	704	3.7	145	2
James, Garry, <i>Det.</i>	159	688	4.3	160	3

PASSING

RECORDS:

Completions: 347, Steve DeBerg, San Francisco (1979)

Touchdowns: 36, Y.A. Tittle, New York (1963)

Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frank Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)

99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)

99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)

99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Gerry Allen, Washington (1968)

99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT	RATING
Kramer, Tommy, <i>Minn.</i>	372	208	55.9	3000	8.06	24	6.5	176	10	2.7	92.6
Montana, Joe, <i>S.F.</i>	307	191	62.2	2236	7.28	8	2.6	48	9	2.9	80.7
Hipple, Eric, <i>Det.</i>	305	192	63.0	1919	6.29	9	3.0	46	11	3.6	75.6
Simms, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	468	259	55.3	3487	7.45	21	4.5	49	22	4.7	74.6
Lomax, Neil, <i>St. L.</i>	421	240	57.0	2583	6.14	13	3.1	148	12	2.9	73.6
Schroeder, Jay, <i>Wash.</i>	541	276	51.0	4109	7.60	22	4.1	171	22	4.1	72.9
Archer, David, <i>Atl.</i>	294	150	51.0	2007	6.83	10	3.4	65	9	3.1	71.6
Jaworski, Ron, <i>Phil.</i>	245	128	52.2	1405	5.73	8	3.3	56	6	2.4	70.2
Pelluer, Steve, <i>Dall.</i>	378	215	56.9	2727	7.21	8	2.1	184	17	4.5	67.9
Wright, Randy, <i>G.B.</i>	492	263	53.5	3247	6.60	17	3.5	62	23	4.7	66.2
Wilson, Dave, <i>N.O.</i>	342	189	55.3	2353	6.88	10	2.9	163	17	5.0	65.8
Young, Steve, <i>T.B.</i>	363	195	53.7	2282	6.29	8	2.2	46	13	3.6	65.5
NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)											
White, Danny, <i>Dall.</i>	153	95	62.1	1157	7.56	12	7.8	63	5	3.3	97.9
Kemp, Jeff, <i>S.F.</i>	200	119	59.5	1554	7.77	11	5.5	166	8	4.0	85.7
Wilson, Wade, <i>Minn.</i>	143	80	55.9	1165	8.15	7	4.9	39	5	3.5	84.4
Flutie, Doug, <i>Chi.</i>	46	23	50.0	361	7.85	3	6.5	158	2	4.3	80.1
Cunningham, Randall, <i>Phil.</i>	209	111	53.1	1391	6.66	8	3.8	175	7	3.3	72.9
Moroski, Mike, <i>S.F.</i>	73	42	57.5	493	6.75	2	2.7	52	3	4.1	70.2
Schonert, Turk, <i>Atl.</i>	154	95	61.7	1032	6.70	4	2.6	41	8	5.2	68.4
Everett, Jim, <i>Rams</i>	147	73	49.7	1018	6.93	8	5.4	160	8	5.4	67.8
Long, Chuck, <i>Det.</i>	40	21	52.5	247	6.18	2	5.0	134	2	5.0	67.4
Ferguson, Joe, <i>Det.</i>	155	73	47.1	941	6.07	7	4.5	73	7	4.5	62.9
Fusina, Chuck, <i>G.B.</i>	32	19	59.4	178	5.56	0	0.0	42	1	3.1	61.7
McMahon, Jim, <i>Chi.</i>	150	77	51.3	995	6.63	5	3.3	158	8	5.3	61.4
Fuller, Steve, <i>Chi.</i>	64	34	53.1	451	7.05	2	3.1	150	4	6.3	60.1
Dills, Steve, <i>Rams</i>	129	59	45.7	693	5.37	4	3.1	165	4	3.1	60.0
Bartkowski, Steve, <i>Rams</i>	126	61	48.4	654	5.19	2	1.6	42	3	2.4	59.4
Ferragamo, Vince, <i>G.B.</i>	40	23	57.5	283	7.08	1	2.5	50	3	7.5	56.6
Collier, Reggie, <i>Dall.</i>	15	8	53.3	96	6.40	1	6.7	27	2	13.3	55.8
Cavanaugh, Matt, <i>Phil.</i>	58	28	48.3	397	6.84	2	3.4	49	4	6.9	53.6
Stoudt, Cliff, <i>St.L.</i>	91	52	57.1	542	5.96	3	3.3	124	7	7.7	53.5
Tomczak, Mike, <i>Chi.</i>	151	74	49.0	1105	7.32	2	1.3	85	10	6.6	50.2
DeBerg, Steve, <i>T.B.</i>	96	50	52.1	610	6.35	5	5.2	45	12	12.5	49.7
Hebert, Bobby, <i>N.O.</i>	79	41	51.9	498	6.30	2	2.5	84	8	10.1	40.5

PUNTING

RECORDS:

Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)

Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)

Longest: 94 yards, Joe Lintzenich, Chicago (1931)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Landeta, Sean, <i>Giants</i>	79	3539	61	44.8	11	0	41	386	24	37.1
Donnelly, Rick, <i>Atl.</i>	78	3421	71	43.9	9	1	47	477	19	35.0
Cox, Steve, <i>Wash.</i>	75	3271	58	43.6	16	0	36	220	21	36.4
Hansen, Brian, <i>N.O.</i>	81	3456	66	42.7	11	1	37	234	17	36.6
Teltschik, John, <i>Phil.</i>	108	4493	62	41.6	10	1	62	631	20	33.6
Runager, Max, <i>S.F.</i>	83	3450	62	41.6	8	2	49	373	23	34.3
Coleman, Greg, <i>Minn.</i>	67	2774	69	41.4	4	0	39	353	15	34.9
Buford, Maury, <i>Chi.</i>	69	2850	59	41.3	8	1	23	110	20	36.9
Saxon, Mike, <i>Dall.</i>	86	3498	58	40.7	10	1	41	301	28	34.4
Garcia, Frank, <i>T.B.</i>	77	3089	60	40.1	8	0	38	410	19	32.7
Bracken, Don, <i>G.B.</i>	55	2203	63	40.1	5	2	33	235	6	32.8
Black, Mike, <i>Det.</i>	46	1819	57	39.5	5	1	21	250	11	31.3
Hatcher, Dale, <i>Rams</i>	97	3740	57	38.6	5	1	47	416	26	32.9
Cater, Greg, <i>St.L.</i>	61	2271	52	37.2	4	1	24	130	16	33.2
NON-QUALIFIERS										
Arnold, Jim, <i>Det.</i>	36	1533	60	42.6	4	1	18	267	7	32.1
Arapostathis, Evan, <i>St.L.</i>	30	1140	50	38.0	0	0	20	166	5	32.5
Renner, Bill, <i>G.B.</i>	15	622	50	41.5	1	3	11	52	2	30.6
Nelson, Chuck, <i>Minn.</i>	3	72	31	24.0	0	0	0	0	0	24.0
Cunningham, Randall, <i>Phil.</i>	2	54	39	27.0	0	0	1	3	0	25.5
Wilson, Wade, <i>Minn.</i>	2	76	46	38.0	0	1	1	3	0	24.3
Murray, Ed, <i>Det.</i>	1	37	37	37.0	1	0	0	0	0	17.0
Springs, Ron, <i>T.B.</i>	1	43	43	43.0	0	0	1	4	0	39.0

Leader based on gross average, minimum 40 punts

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	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Cribbs, Joe, S.F.	152	590	3.9	19	5
Byars, Keith, Phil.	177	577	3.3	32	1
Ferrell, Earl, St. L.	124	548	4.4	25	0
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	66	540	8.2	20	5
Davis, Kenneth, G.B.	114	519	4.6	50	0
Redden, Barry, Rams	110	467	4.2	141	4
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	121	425	3.5	36	5
Young, Steve, T.B.	74	425	5.7	31	5
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	83	347	4.2	29	2
Ellis, Gerry, G.B.	84	345	4.1	24	2
Wonsley, Nathan, T.B.	73	339	4.6	159	3
Carruth, Paul, G.B.	81	308	3.8	42	2
Archer, David, Atl.	52	298	5.7	22	0
Ellerson, Gary, G.B.	90	287	3.2	18	3
Springs, Ron, T.B.	74	285	3.9	40	0
Toney, Anthony, Phil.	69	285	4.1	43	1
Austin, Cliff, Atl.	62	280	4.5	22	1
Haddix, Michael, Phil.	79	276	3.5	18	0
Suhey, Matt, Chi.	84	270	3.2	17	2
Carthon, Maurice, Giants	72	260	3.6	12	0
Bryant, Kelvin, Wash.	69	258	3.7	122	4
Pelluer, Steve, Dall.	41	255	6.2	21	1
Brown, Ted, Minn.	63	251	4.0	60	4
Anderson, Otis, St. L.-Giants	75	237	3.2	16	3
Sanders, Thomas, Chi.	27	224	8.3	175	5
Thomas, Calvin, Chi.	56	224	4.0	23	0
Rice, Allen, Minn.	73	220	3.0	19	2
Stamps, Sylvester, Atl.	30	220	7.3	48	0
Andrews, William, Atl.	52	214	4.1	13	1
Jordan, Buford, N.O.	68	207	3.0	10	1
Griffin, Keith, Wash.	62	197	3.2	12	0
Rouson, Lee, Giants	54	179	3.3	121	2
Tautalatasi, Junior, Phil.	51	163	3.2	50	0
McMahon, Jim, Chi.	22	152	6.9	23	1
Lomax, Neil, St. L.	35	148	4.2	18	1
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	35	146	4.2	23	0
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	33	138	4.2	129	1
Tyler, Wendell, S.F.	31	127	4.1	14	0
White, Charles, Rams	22	126	5.7	19	0
Tomczak, Mike, Chi.	23	117	5.1	16	3
Howard, Bobby, T.B.	30	110	3.7	16	1
Newsome, Tim, Dall.	34	110	3.2	13	2
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	11	103	9.4	29	1
Crawford, Charles, Phil.	28	88	3.1	15	1
Gault, Willie, Chi.	8	79	9.9	33	0
Harmon, Derrick, S.F.	27	77	2.9	15	1
Moore, Alvin, Del.	19	73	3.8	18	0
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	10	72	7.2	18	1
Simms, Phil, Giants	43	72	1.7	18	1
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	11	67	6.1	23	0
Sikaherna, Vai, St. L.	16	62	3.9	23	0
Galbreath, Tony, Giants	16	61	3.8	10	0
Collier, Reggie, Dall.	6	53	8.8	21	0
Stoudt, Cliff, St. L.	7	53	7.6	17	0
Kemp, Jeff, S.F.	15	49	3.3	12	0
Kramer, Tommy, Minn.	23	48	2.1	13	1
Schroeder, Jay, Wash.	36	47	1.3	20	1
Coleman, Greg, Minn.	2	46	23.0	30	0
Everett, Jim, Rams	16	46	2.9	14	1
Hipple, Eric, Del.	16	46	2.9	13	0
Cherry, Tony, S.F.	11	42	3.8	10	0
Clark, Jessie, G.B.	18	41	2.3	9	0
Wright, Randy, G.B.	18	41	2.3	18	1
Montana, Joe, S.F.	17	38	2.2	17	0
Flutie, Doug, Chi.	9	36	4.0	19	1
Jaworski, Ron, Phil.	13	33	2.5	10	0
Fuller, Steve, Chi.	8	30	3.8	10	0
Gray, Mel, N.O.	6	29	4.8	11	0
Johnson, Bobby, Giants	2	28	14.0	22	0
Monk, Art, Wash.	4	27	6.8	21	0
Cavanaugh, Matt, Phil.	9	26	2.9	11	0
Ferguson, Joe, Del.	5	25	5.0	14	0
Ivery, Eddie Lee, G.B.	4	25	6.3	15	0
Johnson, Billy, Atl.	6	25	4.2	10	0
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	1	25	25.0	25	0
Hunter, Herman, Del.	3	22	7.3	18	0
Moroski, Mike, S.F.	6	22	3.7	12	1
Williams, Scott, Del.	13	22	1.7	5	2
Whisenhunt, Ken, Atl.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Clack, Darryl, Dall.	4	19	4.8	8	0
Rutledge, Jeff, Giants	3	19	6.3	18	0
Stanley, Walter, G.B.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Wilson, Dave, N.O.	14	19	1.4	14	1
Wilson, Wayne, Minn.-N.O.	10	19	1.9	6	0

t=touchdown

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wolfe, Ron, <i>St. L.</i>	8	19	2.4	8	0
Epps, Phillip, <i>G.B.</i>	4	18	4.5	20	0
Williams, Keith, <i>Atl.</i>	3	18	6.0	8	0
Del Rio, Jack, <i>N.O.</i>	1	16	16.0	16	0
White, Danny, <i>Dall.</i>	8	16	2.0	10	1
Hebert, Bobby, <i>N.O.</i>	5	14	2.8	7	0
Jones, Hassan, <i>Minn.</i>	1	14	14.0	14	0
Carter, Anthony, <i>Minn.</i>	1	12	12.0	12	0
Matthews, Aubrey, <i>Atl.</i>	1	12	12.0	12	0
Schonert, Turk, <i>Atl.</i>	11	12	1.1	7	1
Fusina, Chuck, <i>G.B.</i>	7	11	1.6	6	0
Sherrard, Mike, <i>Dall.</i>	2	11	5.5	8	0
Cosbie, Doug, <i>Dall.</i>	1	9	9.0	9	0
Wilson, Wade, <i>Minn.</i>	13	9	0.7	13	1
Clark, Bret, <i>Atl.</i>	2	8	4.0	6	0
Waters, Mike, <i>Phil.</i>	5	8	1.6	5	0
Campbell, Scott, <i>Atl.</i>	1	7	7.0	7	0
Franklin, Pat, <i>T.B.</i>	7	7	1.0	4	0
Jones, Joey, <i>Atl.</i>	1	7	7.0	7	0
Bailey, Stacey, <i>Atl.</i>	1	6	6.0	6	0
Edwards, Kelvin, <i>N.O.</i>	1	6	6.0	6	0
Jackson, Kenny, <i>Phil.</i>	1	6	6.0	6	0
Lavette, Robert, <i>Dall.</i>	10	6	0.6	5	0
Brown, Ron, <i>Rams</i>	4	5	1.3	11	0
Dils, Steve, <i>Rams</i>	10	5	0.5	5	0
Fowler, Todd, <i>Dall.</i>	6	5	0.8	2	0
House, Kevin, <i>T.B.</i>	2	5	2.5	4	0

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 106, Art Monk, Washington (1984)

Yards: 1,570, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1986)

TDs: 17, Don Hutson, Green Bay (1942)

17, Elroy Hirsch, Los Angeles (1951)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Rice, Jerry, <i>S.F.</i>	86	1570	18.3	166	15
Craig, Roger, <i>S.F.</i>	81	624	7.7	48	0
Smith, J.T., <i>St.L.</i>	80	1014	12.7	45	6
Walker, Herschel, <i>Dall.</i>	76	837	11.0	184	2
Clark, Gary, <i>Wash.</i>	74	1265	17.1	55	7
Monk, Art, <i>Wash.</i>	73	1068	14.6	69	4
Bavaro, Mark, <i>Giants</i>	66	1001	15.2	41	4
Lofton, James, <i>G.B.</i>	64	840	13.1	36	4
Brown, Charlie, <i>Atl.</i>	63	918	14.6	42	4
Clark, Dwight, <i>S.F.</i>	61	794	13.0	145	2
Quick, Mike, <i>Phil.</i>	60	939	15.7	175	9
Jordan, Steve, <i>Minn.</i>	58	859	14.8	168	6
Ferrell, Earl, <i>St.L.</i>	56	434	7.8	130	3
Jones, James, <i>Det.</i>	54	334	6.2	21	1
Chadwick, Jeff, <i>Det.</i>	53	995	18.8	73	5
Nelson, Darrin, <i>Minn.</i>	53	593	11.2	34	3
Hill, Tony, <i>Dall.</i>	49	770	15.7	63	3
Epps, Phillip, <i>G.B.</i>	49	612	12.5	153	4
Jones, Mike, <i>N.O.</i>	48	625	13.0	45	3
Newsome, Tim, <i>Dall.</i>	48	421	8.8	30	3
Magee, Calvin, <i>T.B.</i>	45	564	12.5	45	5
Bland, Carl, <i>Det.</i>	44	511	11.6	34	2
Bryant, Kelvin, <i>Wash.</i>	43	449	10.4	40	3
Wilder, James, <i>T.B.</i>	43	326	7.6	25	1
Gault, Willie, <i>Chi.</i>	42	818	19.5	153	5
Carter, Gerald, <i>T.B.</i>	42	640	15.2	46	2
Dixon, Floyd, <i>Atl.</i>	42	617	14.7	65	2
Green, Roy, <i>St.L.</i>	42	517	12.3	148	6
Sherrard, Mike, <i>Dall.</i>	41	744	18.1	168	5
Francis, Russ, <i>S.F.</i>	41	505	12.3	52	1
Tautalatasi, Junior, <i>Phil.</i>	41	325	7.9	56	2
Mitchell, Stump, <i>St.L.</i>	41	276	6.7	24	0
Spagnola, John, <i>Phil.</i>	39	397	10.2	38	1
Carter, Anthony, <i>Minn.</i>	38	686	18.1	160	7
Martin, Eric, <i>N.O.</i>	37	675	18.2	84	5
Payton, Walter, <i>Chi.</i>	37	382	10.3	57	3
Giles, Jimmie, <i>T.B.-Det.</i>	37	376	10.2	30	4
Tice, John, <i>N.O.</i>	37	330	8.9	129	3
Stanley, Walter, <i>G.B.</i>	35	723	20.7	62	2
Cribbs, Joe, <i>S.F.</i>	35	346	9.9	33	0
Didler, Clint, <i>Wash.</i>	34	691	20.3	171	4
Ellard, Henry, <i>Rams</i>	34	447	13.1	134	4
James, Garry, <i>Det.</i>	34	219	6.4	26	0
Galbreath, Tony, <i>Giants</i>	33	268	8.1	19	0
Lewis, Leo, <i>Minn.</i>	32	600	18.8	176	2
Johnson, Bobby, <i>Giants</i>	31	534	17.2	144	5
Ivery, Eddie Lee, <i>G.B.</i>	31	385	12.4	42	1
Jackson, Kenny, <i>Phil.</i>	30	506	16.9	49	6

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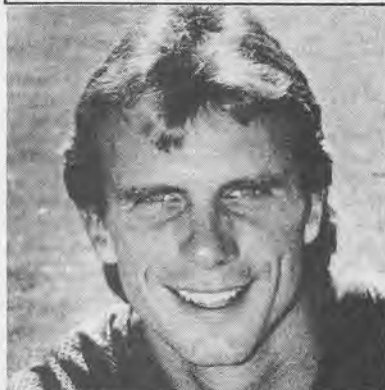
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NFCstatistics

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Rice, Allen, Minn.	30	391	13.0	132	3
Robinson, Stacy, Giants	29	494	17.0	49	2
Jones, Hassan, Minn.	28	570	20.4	155	4
Cosbie, Doug, Dall.	28	312	11.1	122	1
Redden, Barry, Rams	28	217	7.8	124	1
Moorehead, Emery, Chi.	26	390	15.0	85	1
Dickerson, Eric, Rams	26	205	7.9	28	0
Haddix, Michael, Phil.	26	150	5.8	29	0
Brown, Ron, Rams	25	396	15.8	165	3
Thompson, Leonard, Det.	25	320	12.8	136	5
Marsh, Doug, St.L.	25	313	12.5	27	0
Dorsett, Tony, Dall.	25	267	10.7	136	1
Hunter, Herman, Det.	25	218	8.7	118	1
Cox, Arthur, Atl.	24	301	12.5	49	1
Ellis, Gerry, G.B.	24	258	10.8	29	0
Suhey, Matt, Chi.	24	235	9.8	58	0
Springs, Ron, T.B.	24	187	7.8	46	0
Riggs, Gerald, Atl.	24	136	5.7	11	0
Caruth, Paul, G.B.	24	134	5.6	19	2
Ortego, Keith, Chi.	23	430	18.7	158	2
Renfro, Mike, Dall.	22	325	14.8	130	3
Wrightman, Tim, Chi.	22	241	11.0	29	0
Morris, Joe, Giants	21	233	11.1	23	1
Davis, Kenneth, G.B.	21	142	6.8	18	1
Goodlow, Eugene, N.O.	20	306	15.3	129	2
Stamps, Sylvester, Atl.	20	221	11.1	139	1
Whisenhunt, Ken, Atl.	20	184	9.2	123	3
Warren, Don, Wash.	20	164	8.2	20	1
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	19	238	12.5	41	0
Anderson, Ottis, St.L.-Giants	19	137	7.2	19	0
House, Kevin, T.B.-Rams	18	384	21.3	160	2
Brenner, Hoby, N.O.	18	286	15.9	34	0
Banks, Gordon, Dall.	17	202	11.9	23	0
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	17	179	10.5	137	2
Ross, Dan, G.B.	17	143	8.4	16	1
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	17	107	6.3	17	0
Mayes, Rueben, N.O.	17	96	5.6	18	0
McConkey, Phil, Giants	16	279	17.4	46	1
Carthon, Maurice, Giants	16	67	4.2	10	0
Hunter, Tony, Rams	15	206	13.7	42	0
West, Ed, G.B.	15	199	13.3	146	1
Young, Mike, Rams	15	181	12.1	21	3
Brown, Ted, Minn.	15	132	8.8	20	0
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	14	286	20.4	71	2
Freeman, Phil, T.B.	14	229	16.4	133	2
Johnson, Troy, St.L.	14	203	14.5	39	0
Hill, David, Rams	14	202	14.4	33	1
Little, David, Phil.	14	132	9.4	26	0
Toney, Anthony, Phil.	13	177	13.6	47	0
Ralhtman, Tom, S.F.	13	121	9.3	14	0
Garrity, Gregg, Phil.	12	227	18.9	34	0
Williams, Keith, Atl.	12	164	13.7	132	1
Ellerson, Gary, G.B.	12	130	10.8	32	0
Johnson, Ron, Phil.	11	207	18.8	39	1
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	11	181	16.5	35	3
Harris, Herbert, N.O.	11	148	13.5	27	0
Jordan, Buford, N.O.	11	127	11.5	37	0
Griffin, Keith, Wash.	11	110	10.0	28	0
Mularkey, Mike, Minn.	11	89	8.1	20	2
Byars, Keith, Phil.	11	44	4.0	17	0
Allen, Anthony, Atl.	10	156	15.6	32	2
Duckworth, Bobby, Rams-Phil.	10	148	14.8	32	1
Edwards, Kelvin, N.O.	10	132	13.2	24	0
Bell, Jerry, T.B.	10	120	12.0	25	0
Mowatt, Zeke, Giants	10	119	11.9	30	2
Sikahema, Vai, St.L.	10	99	9.9	27	1
Lewis, David, Det.	10	88	8.8	16	1
Miller, Solomon, Giants	9	144	16.0	132	2
Wilson, Mike, S.F.	9	104	11.6	18	1
Guman, Mike, Rams	9	68	7.6	13	0
Frank, John, S.F.	9	61	6.8	17	2
Rouson, Lee, Giants	8	121	15.1	137	1
Harmon, Derrick, S.F.	8	78	9.8	15	0
Wonsley, Nathan, T.B.	8	57	7.1	11	0
Moore, Alvin, Det.	8	47	5.9	8	0
Jones, Joey, Atl.	7	141	20.1	41	0
Mandley, Pete, Det.	7	106	15.1	51	0
Franklin, Pat, T.B.	7	29	4.1	9	1
Smith, Phil, Phil.	6	94	15.7	36	0
Williams, David, T.B.	6	91	15.2	25	0
Chandler, Thornton, Dall.	6	57	9.5	15	2
Johnson, Billy, Atl.	6	57	9.5	27	0
Clark, Jessie, G.B.	6	41	6.8	12	0
Middleton, Ron, Atl.	6	31	5.2	8	0

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Scott, Chuck, Rams	5	76	15.2	21	0
Crawford, Derrick, S.F.	5	70	14.0	42	0
Rubick, Rob, Det.	5	62	12.4	27	0
Gustafson, Jim, Minn.	5	61	12.2	18	2
Howard, Bobby, T.B.	5	60	12.0	29	0
Fox, Chas, St.L.	5	59	11.8	138	1
Long, Darren, Rams	5	47	9.4	13	0
Andrews, William, Atl.	5	35	7.0	14	0
Lavette, Robert, Dall.	5	31	6.2	9	1
Moffitt, Mike, G.B.	4	87	21.8	34	0
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	4	80	20.0	158	1
Barnes, Lew, Chi.	4	54	13.5	14	0
Thomas, Calvin, Chi.	4	18	4.5	18	0
Dunn, K.D., T.B.	3	83	27.7	38	0
Harris, Leonard, T.B.	3	52	17.3	23	0
Tilley, Pat, St.L.	3	51	17.0	18	0
Orr, Terry, Wash.	3	45	15.0	122	1
Hellin, Vince, T.B.	3	42	14.0	15	0
Holman, Scott, St.L.	3	41	13.7	18	0
Bailey, Stacey, Atl.	3	39	13.0	21	0
Rhymes, Buster, Minn.	3	25	8.3	12	0
Rogers, George, Wash.	3	24	8.0	13	0
Austin, Cliff, Atl.	3	21	7.0	9	0
Gray, Mel, N.O.	2	45	22.5	38	0
Woffley, Ron, St.L.	2	32	16.0	28	0
Waters, Mike, Phil.	2	27	13.5	19	0
Sanders, Thomas, Chi.	2	18	9.0	18	0
Darby, Byron, Phil.	2	16	8.0	13	0
Margerum, Ken, S.F.	2	12	6.0	6	0
Williams, Scott, Det.	2	9	4.5	6	0
Lewis, Mark, G.B.	2	7	3.5	14	2
Monroe, Carl, S.F.	2	6	3.0	5	0
Mathews, Aubrey, Atl.	1	25	25.0	25	0
Fowler, Todd, Dall.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Clack, Darryl, Dall.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Gillespie, Willie, T.B.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Carson, Harry, Giants	1	13	13.0	113	1
Waymer, Dave, N.O.	1	13	13.0	13	0
Mallory, Rick, T.B.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Tyrrell, Tim, Rams	1	9	9.0	9	0
Bortz, Mark, Chi.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Ring, Bill, S.F.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Sargent, Broderick, St.L.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Franz, Nolan, G.B.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Holloway, Derek, Wash.	1	7	7.0	7	0
White, Charles, Rams	1	7	7.0	7	0
Williams, John, N.O.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Novacek, Jay, St.L.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Hebert, Bobby, N.O.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Heller, Ron, T.B.	1	1	1.0	1	1
Wilson, Wayne, N.O.	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS:

Number: 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay (1979)

Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)

Longest for TD: 98 yards

Gill Lefebvre, Cincinnati (1933)

Charlie West, Minnesota (1968)

Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sikahema, Vai, St.L.	43	16	522	12.1	171	2
Griffin, Don, S.F.	38	18	377	9.9	176	1
Mandley, Pete, Det.	43	9	420	9.8	181	1
Jenkins, Ken, Wash.	28	11	270	9.6	39	0
Stanley, Walter, G.B.	33	7	316	9.6	183	1
Martin, Eric, N.O.	24	9	227	9.5	39	0
Barnes, Lew, Chi.	57	9	482	8.5	35	0
Sutton, Mickey, Rams	28	5	234	8.4	32	0
McConkey, Phil, Giants	32	12	253	7.9	22	0
Bess, Rufus, Minn.	23	10	162	7.0	15	0
Banks, Gordon, Dall.	27	14	160	5.9	20	0
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	26	3	151	5.8	16	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Lavette, Robert, Dall.	18	3	92	5.1	28	0
Garrity, Gregg, Phil.	17	7	187	11.0	176	1
Cooper, Evan, Phil.	16	7	139	8.7	58	0
Ellard, Henry, Rams	14	10	127	9.1	20	0
Futrell, Bobby, T.B.	14	5	67	4.8	12	0
Green, Darrell, Wash.	12	2	120	10.0	23	0
McLemore, Dana, N.O.	10	3	67	6.7	23	0
Yarber, Eric, Wash.	9	4	143	15.9	44	0

t=touchdown

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Walker, Kevin, T.B.	9	0	27	3.0	10	0
Johnson, Billy, All.	8	8	87	10.9	30	0
Poe, Johnnie, N.O.	8	3	71	8.9	17	0
Lewis, Leo, Minn.	7	4	53	7.6	13	0
Jones, Joey, All.	7	1	36	5.1	14	0
Waters, Mike, Phil.	7	1	30	4.3	13	0
Smith, Phil, Phil.	4	1	18	4.5	7	0
Crawford, Derrick, S.F.	4	0	15	3.8	9	0
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	3	6	22	7.3	12	0
Harris, Leonard, T.B.	3	0	16	5.3	8	0
Collins, Mark, Giants	3	1	11	3.7	6	0
Edwards, Kelvin, N.O.	3	0	2	0.7	5	0
Galbreath, Tony, Giants	3	1	1	0.3	1	0
Allen, Anthony, Atl.	2	0	10	5.0	9	0
Tullis, Willie, N.O.	2	0	10	5.0	7	0
Clark, Gary, Wash.	1	3	14	14.0	14	0
Stamps, Sylvester, All.	1	0	8	8.0	8	0
Smith, J.T., St.L.	1	0	6	6.0	6	0
McKyer, Tim, S.F.	1	1	5	5.0	5	0
Milot, Rich, Wash.	1	0	3	3.0	3	0
Carter, Carl, St.L.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Holloway, Johnny, Dall.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
Rice, Allen, Minn.	1	0	0	0.0	0	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS:

Number: 14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)

Yards: 301, Don Doll, Detroit (1949)

Longest return: 102 yards

Bob Smith, Detroit (1949)

Erich Barnes, New York (1961)

TDs: 3, Dick Lynch, New York (1963)

3, Herb Adderley, Green Bay (1965)

3, Monte Jackson, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Rod Perry, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Ronnie Lott, San Francisco (1981)

2 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Lott, Ronnie, S.F.	10	134	13.4	157	1
Waymer, Dave, N.O.	9	48	5.3	17	0
Lee, Mark, G.B.	9	33	3.7	11	0
Gray, Jerry, Rams	8	101	12.6	28	0
Holt, Issiac, Minn.	8	54	6.8	27	0
Richardson, Mike, Chi.	7	69	9.9	32	0
Irvin, LeRoy, Rams	6	150	25.0	150	1
Duerson, Dave, Chi.	6	139	23.2	38	0
Downs, Michael, Dall.	6	54	9.0	31	0
Waters, Andre, Phil.	6	39	6.5	21	0
McKyer, Tim, S.F.	6	33	5.5	121	1
Young, Roynell, Phil.	6	9	1.5	9	0
Cromwell, Nolan, Rams	5	101	20.2	180	1
Clark, Bret, All.	5	94	18.8	34	0
Marshall, Wilber, Chi.	5	68	13.6	158	1
Fellows, Ron, Dall.	5	46	9.2	134	1
Mitchell, Devon, Det.	5	41	8.2	17	0
Green, Darrell, Wash.	5	9	1.8	7	0
Browner, Joey, Minn.	4	62	15.5	139	1
Galloway, Duane, Det.	4	58	14.5	36	0
Fahnhorst, Jim, S.F.	4	52	13.0	46	0
Kinard, Terry, Giants	4	52	13.0	25	0
Fuller, Jeff, S.F.	4	44	11.0	26	0
Mack, Cedric, St.L.	4	42	10.5	24	0
Poe, Johnnie, N.O.	4	42	10.5	30	0
Case, Scott, All.	4	41	10.3	41	0
Williams, Perry, Giants	4	31	7.8	15	0
Cade, Mossy, G.B.	4	26	6.5	18	0
McNorton, Bruce, Det.	4	10	2.5	10	0
Holmoe, Tom, S.F.	3	149	49.7	178	2
Harris, John, Minn.	3	69	23.0	28	0
Jordan, Curtis, Wash.	3	46	15.3	20	0
Walls, Everson, Dall.	3	46	15.3	24	0
Newsome, Vince, Rams	3	45	15.0	34	0
Fencik, Gary, Chi.	3	37	12.3	24	0
Wattelet, Frank, N.O.	3	34	11.3	22	0
Hill, Kenny, Giants	3	25	8.3	23	0
Cooper, Evan, Phil.	3	20	6.7	20	0
McKeever, Vito, T.B.	3	12	4.0	10	0
Lee, Carl, Minn.	3	10	3.3	10	0
Johnson, Alonzo, Phi.	3	6	2.0	9	0
Williamson, Carlton, S.F.	3	3	1.0	2	0
Griffin, Don, S.F.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Jackson, Vestee, Chi.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Nixon, Tory, S.F.	2	106	53.0	188	1

continued

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NFC Statistics

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Brantley, Scot, T.B.	2	65	32.5	57	0
Gibson, Antonio, N.O.	2	43	21.5	43	0
Croudip, David, Atl.	2	35	17.5	29	0
Griffin, James, Det.	2	34	17.0	21	0
Solomon, Jesse, Minn.	2	34	17.0	18	0
Milot, Rich, Wash.	2	33	16.5	31	0
Wilson, Otis, Chi.	2	31	15.5	21	0
Reasons, Gary, Giants	2	28	14.0	18	0
Patterson, Elvis, Giants	2	26	13.0	26	0
Sutton, Mickey, Rams	2	25	12.5	20	0
Jerue, Mark, Rams	2	23	11.5	122	1
Welch, Herb, Giants	2	22	11.0	16	0
Washington, Lionel, St. L.	2	19	9.5	19	0
Johnson, Demetrius, Det.	2	18	9.0	18	0
Williams, Joel, Atl.	2	18	9.0	114	1
Maxie, Brett, N.O.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Wilburn, Barry, Wash.	2	14	7.0	14	0
Woodberry, Dennis, Atl.	2	14	7.0	9	0
Carter, Carl, St. L.	2	12	6.0	11	0
Williams, Jimmy, Det.	2	12	6.0	11	0
Wilkes, Reggie, Atl.	2	11	5.5	10	0
Jakes, Van, N.O.	2	6	3.0	4	0
Bowles, Todd, Wash.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Coffey, Ken, Wash.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Curry, Craig, T.B.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Greene, Tiger, G.B.	2	0	0.0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS:

Number: 60, Drew Hill, Los Angeles (1981)

Yards: 1,345, Buster Rhymes, Minnesota (1985)

Longest: 106 yards

Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956)

Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)

TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)

4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	20	576	28.8	191	1
Gray, Mel, N.O.	31	866	27.9	1101	1
Sikahema, Vai, St. L.	37	847	22.9	44	0
Bess, Rufus, Minn.	31	705	22.7	43	0
Brown, Ron, Rams	36	794	22.1	55	0
Stamps, Sylvester, Atl.	24	514	21.4	35	0
Hunter, Herman, Det.	49	1007	20.6	54	0
Jenkins, Ken, Wash.	27	554	20.5	37	0
Stanley, Walter, G.B.	28	559	20.0	55	0
Elder, Donnie, Pitt.-Del.	22	435	19.8	36	0
McConkey, Phil, Giants	24	471	19.6	27	0
Lavette, Robert, Dall.	36	699	19.4	37	0
Freeman, Phil, T.B.	31	582	18.8	33	0
Crawford, Charles, Phil.	27	497	18.4	36	0
Sanders, Thomas, Chi.	22	399	18.1	44	0
NON-QUALIFIERS (5 or more)					
Clark, Darryl, Dall.	19	421	22.2	51	0
Tautalatasi, Junior, Phil.	18	344	19.1	51	0
Crawford, Derrick, S.F.	15	280	18.7	34	0
Williams, Keith, Atl.	14	225	18.2	32	0
Verdin, Clarence, Wash.	12	240	20.0	29	0
Watts, Elbert, G.B.	12	239	19.9	40	0
Davis, Kenneth, G.B.	12	231	19.3	35	0
White, Charles, Rams	12	216	18.0	28	0
Collins, Mark, Giants	11	204	18.5	26	0
Mayes, Rueben, N.O.	10	213	21.3	34	0
Stills, Ken, G.B.	10	209	20.9	38	0
Wonsley, Nathan, T.B.	10	208	20.8	29	0
Swanson, Eric, St. L.	10	206	20.6	40	0
Rhymes, Buster, Minn.	9	213	23.7	34	0
Griffin, Keith, Wash.	8	156	19.5	35	0
Walker, Kevin, T.B.	8	146	18.3	26	0
Monroe, Carl, S.F.	8	139	17.4	25	0
Ellerson, Gary, G.B.	7	154	22.0	57	0
Garner, Dwight, Wash.	7	142	20.3	26	0
Harris, Herbert, N.O.	7	122	17.4	22	0
Austin, Cliff, Atl.	7	120	17.1	25	0
Miller, Solomon, Giants	7	111	15.9	23	0
Mitchell, Stump, St. L.	6	203	33.8	53	0
Fox, Chas, St. L.	6	161	26.8	38	0
Bland, Carl, Del.	6	114	19.0	24	0
Futrell, Bobby, T.B.	5	115	23.0	30	0
Griffin, Don, S.F.	5	97	19.4	28	0
Sutton, Mickey, Rams	5	91	18.2	22	0
Rice, Allen, Minn.	5	88	17.6	23	0
Smith, Oscar, Del.	5	81	16.2	30	0
Hill, Kenny, Giants	5	61	12.2	30	0

t=touchdown



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AFC

STATISTICS

RECORDS:

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)

Touchdowns: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)

Field goals: 34, Jim Turner, New York (1968)

Extra points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Miami	56	9	46	1	52	55	14	22	0	430
New England	45	10	29	6	44	45	32	41	1	412
Cincinnati	51	24	25	2	50	51	17	32	1	409
Cleveland	45	20	18	7	43	44	26	33	0	391
Denver	45	17	22	6	44	45	20	28	2	378
Seattle	43	15	24	4	42	43	22	35	0	366
Jets	45	16	27	2	44	44	16	19	1	364
Kansas City	43	10	23	10	43	43	19	26	0	358
San Diego	41	19	21	1	39	41	16	25	1	335
Raiders	37	6	27	4	36	36	21	28	1	323
Pittsburgh	35	18	16	1	32	34	21	32	1	307
Buffalo	34	9	22	3	32	34	17	27	0	287
Houston	30	13	14	3	28	30	22	27	0	274
Indianapolis	27	10	16	1	26	27	13	25	1	229

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Franklin, Tony, N.E.	44	45	32	41	140
Johnson, Norm, Sea.	42	42	22	35	108
Karlis, Rich, Den.	44	45	20	28	104
Breech, Jim, Cin.	50	51	17	32	101
Lowery, Nick, K.C.	43	43	19	26	100
Bahr, Chris, Raiders	36	36	21	28	99
Anderson, Gary, Pitt.	32	32	21	32	95
Reveiz, Fuad, Mia.	52	55	14	22	94
Zendejas, Tony, Hou.	28	29	22	27	94
Leahy, Pat, Jets	44	44	16	19	92
Bahr, Matt, Clev.	30	30	20	26	90
Benirschke, Rolf, S.D.	39	41	16	25	87
Norwood, Scott, Buff.	32	34	17	27	83
Biasucci, Dean, Ind.	26	27	13	25	65
Moseley, Mark, Wash.-Clev.	25	28	12	19	61

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Winder, Sammy, Den.	14	9	5	0	84
Warner, Curt, Sea.	13	13	0	0	78
Hampton, Lorenzo, Mia.	12	9	3	0	72
Walker, Wesley, Jets	12	0	12	0	72
Duper, Mark, Mia.	11	0	11	0	66
Paige, Stephone, K.C.	11	0	11	0	66
Clayton, Mark, Mia.	10	0	10	0	60
Collinsworth, Cris, Cin.	10	0	10	0	60
Mack, Kevin, Clev.	10	10	0	0	60
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	10	0	10	0	60
Anderson, Gary, S.D.	9	1	8	0	54
Brooks, James, Cin.	9	5	4	0	54
Kinnebrew, Larry, Cin.	9	8	1	0	54
Largent, Steve, Sea.	9	0	9	0	54
Willhite, Gerald, Den.	9	5	3	1	54
Abercrombie, Walter, Pitt.	8	6	2	0	48
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	8	0	8	0	48
Christensen, Todd, Raiders	8	0	8	0	48
Collins, Tony, N.E.	8	3	5	0	48
Hector, Johnny, Jets	8	8	0	0	48
Toon, Al, Jets	8	0	8	0	48
Williams, Dokie, Raiders	8	0	8	0	48
Wilson, Stanley, Cin.	8	8	0	0	48
Allen, Marcus, Raiders	7	5	2	0	42
Brennan, Brian, Clev.	7	0	6	1	42
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	7	0	6	1	42

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
McGee, Buford, S.D.	7	7	0	0	42
Moore, Nat, Mia.	7	0	7	0	42
Reed, Andre, Buff.	7	0	7	0	42
Turner, Daryl, Sea.	7	0	7	0	42
Bell, Greg, Buff.	6	4	2	0	36
Dickey, Curtis, Clev.	6	6	0	0	36
Hester, Jessie, Raiders	6	0	6	0	36
McNeill, Freeman, Jets	6	5	1	0	36
Smith, Jeff, K.C.	6	3	3	0	36
Spencer, Tim, S.D.	6	6	0	0	36
Bouza, Matt, Ind.	5	0	5	0	30
Hardy, Bruce, Mia.	5	0	5	0	30
Hill, Drew, Hou.	5	0	5	0	30
Jackson, Earnest, Pitt.	5	5	0	0	30
Malone, Mark, Pitt.	5	5	0	0	30
Riddick, Rob, Buff.	5	4	1	0	30
Slaughter, Webster, Clev.	5	0	4	1	30
Thompson, Weegie, Pitt.	5	0	5	0	30
Wallace, Ray, Hou.	5	3	2	0	30
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	5	0	5	0	30
Adams, Curtis, S.D.	4	4	0	0	24
Brown, Eddie, Cin.	4	0	4	0	24
Burkett, Chris, Buff.	4	0	4	0	24
Burruss, Lloyd, K.C.	4	0	0	4	24
Butler, Raymond, Sea.	4	0	4	0	24
Byner, Earnest, Clev.	4	2	2	0	24
Carson, Carlos, K.C.	4	0	4	0	24
Chandler, Wes, S.D.	4	0	4	0	24
Erenberg, Rich, Pitt.	4	1	3	0	24
Givins, Earnest, Hou.	4	1	3	0	24
Green, Boyce, K.C.	4	3	0	1	24
James, Craig, N.E.	4	4	0	0	24
Johnson, Dan, Mia.	4	0	4	0	24
Melzelaars, Pete, Buff.	4	0	3	1	24
Rozier, Mike, Hou.	4	4	0	0	24
Shuler, Mickey, Jets	4	0	4	0	24
Bentley, Albert, Ind.	3	3	0	0	18
Harden, Mike, Den.	3	0	0	3	18
Lang, Gene, Den.	3	1	2	0	18
Lipps, Louis, Pitt.	3	0	3	0	18
McMillan, Randy, Ind.	3	3	0	0	18
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.	3	0	3	0	18
Pinkett, Allen, Hou.	3	2	1	0	18
Pruitt, James, Mia.	3	0	2	1	18

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Scott, Willie, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Watson, Steve, Den.	3	0	3	0	18
Arnold, Walt, K.C.	2	0	1	1	12
Barksdale, Rod, Raiders	2	0	2	0	12
Baty, Greg, N.E.	2	0	2	0	12
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	2	0	2	0	12
Cherry, Deron, K.C.	2	0	0	2	12
Coffman, Paul, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Elway, John, Den.	2	1	1	0	12
Fontenot, Herman, Clev.	2	1	1	0	12
Franklin, Byron, Sea.	2	0	2	0	12
Heard, Herman, K.C.	2	2	0	0	12
Holman, Rodney, Cin.	2	0	2	0	12
Holt, Harry, Clev.	2	1	1	0	12
Johnson, Vance, Den.	2	0	2	0	12
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	2	0	2	0	12
Lane, Eric, Sea.	2	0	1	1	12
McNeil, Gerald, Clev.	2	0	0	2	12
Moon, Warren, Hou.	2	2	0	0	12
Munoz, Anthony, Cin.	2	0	2	0	12
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	2	0	2	0	12
Paige, Tony, Jets	2	2	0	0	12
Pruitt, Mike, K.C.	2	2	0	0	12
Robinson, Jerry, Raiders	2	0	0	2	12
Sewell, Steve, Den.	2	1	1	0	12
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	2	0	2	0	12
Starring, Stephen, N.E.	2	0	2	0	12
Tatupu, Mosi, N.E.	2	1	0	1	12
Woolfolk, Butch, Hou.	2	0	2	0	12
Humphery, Bobby, Jets	1	0	0	1	8
Beach, Pat, Ind.	1	0	1	0	6
Bellinger, Rodney, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Bligen, Dennis, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
Boyer, Mark, Ind.	1	0	1	0	6
Breeden, Louis, Cin.	1	0	0	1	6
Brister, Bubba, Pitt.	1	1	0	0	6
Brown, Dave, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Byrum, Carl, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
Daniel, Eugene, Ind.	1	0	0	1	6
Davenport, Ron, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Donaldson, Jeff, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Edmonds, Bobby Joe, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Edwards, Eddie, Cin.	1	0	0	1	6
Esiason, Boomer, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
Flick, Tom, S.D.	1	1	0	0	6
Gill, Owen, Ind.	1	1	0	0	6
Gothard, Preston, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Gross, Al, Clev.	1	0	0	1	6
Harmon, Ronnie, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
Harry, Emile, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Hayes, Jeff, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
Hayes, Lester, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
Hill, Greg, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Hogeboom, Gary, Ind.	1	1	0	0	6
Holohan, Pete, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Hudson, Gordon, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Jackson, Mark, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Jennings, Stanford, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
Jensen, Jim, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, Trumaine, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Jones, Cedric, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Kattus, Eric, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
Kay, Clarence, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Krieg, Dave, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6
Langhorne, Reggie, Clev.	1	0	1	0	6
Lyles, Robert, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Marion, Fred, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	1	1	0	0	6

continued

AFCstatistics

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PIS
McGee, Tim, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
McSwain, Rod, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Minnifield, Frank, Cleve.	1	0	0	1	6
Mobley, Orson, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Moore, Ricky, Buff.	1	1	0	0	6
Moriarty, Larry, Hou.	1	1	0	0	6
Morris, Randall, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6
Moyer, Paul, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Munchak, Mike, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
O'Neal, Leslie, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Parker, Andy, Raiders	1	0	1	0	6
Pitts, Ron, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Rembert, Johnny, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Ross, Kevin, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Sanchez, Lupe, Pitt.	1	0	0	1	6
Sherwin, Tim, Ind.	1	0	1	0	6
Stallworth, John, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Studdard, Dave, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Sweeney, Calvin, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Teal, Jimmy, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
Townsend, JoJo, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
Townsend, Andre, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Trudeau, Jack, Ind.	1	1	0	0	6
Walker, Fulton, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
Weathers, Robert, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Williams, Brent, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Williams, Jamie, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Wilson, Steve, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Wonsley, George, Ind.	1	1	0	0	6
Woodard, Ken, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Wright, Felix, Cleve.	1	0	0	1	6
Edwards, David, Pitt.	0	0	0	0	*2
Jones, Rulon, Den.	0	0	0	0	*2
Leiding, Jeff, Ind.	0	0	0	0	*2
Townsend, Greg, Raiders	0	0	0	0	*2
White, Leon, Cin.	0	0	0	0	*2

* Safety (also team safeties: Den., N.E., S.D.)

RUSHING

RECORDS:

Carries: 380, Marcus Allen, Los Angeles, (1985)

Yards: 2,003, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)

TDs: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)

19, Chuck Muncie, San Diego (1981)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Cincinnati	521	2533	4.9	161	24
Seattle	513	2300	4.5	160	15
Pittsburgh	564	2223	3.9	45	18
Raiders	475	1790	3.8	128	6
Jets	490	1729	3.5	41	16
Houston	490	1700	3.5	143	13
Denver	455	1678	3.7	42	17
Buffalo	419	1654	3.9	42	9
Cleveland	470	1650	3.5	47	20
San Diego	471	1576	3.3	24	19
Miami	349	1545	4.4	154	9
Indianapolis	407	1491	3.7	170	10
Kansas City	432	1468	3.4	40	10
New England	469	1373	2.9	31	10

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Warner, Curt, Sea.	319	1481	4.6	160	13
Brooks, James, Cin.	205	1087	5.3	156	5
Jackson, Earnest, Pitt.	216	910	4.2	31	5
Abercrombie, Walter, Pitt.	214	877	4.1	138	6
McNeill, Freeman, Jets	214	856	4.0	40	5
Hampton, Lorenzo, Mia.	186	830	4.5	154	9
Winder, Sammy, Den.	240	789	3.3	31	9
Allen, Marcus, Raiders	208	759	3.6	128	5
Mack, Kevin, Cleve.	174	665	3.8	20	10
Rozier, Mike, Hou.	199	662	3.3	119	4
Riddick, Robb, Buff.	150	632	4.2	141	4
McMillan, Randy, Ind.	189	609	3.2	28	3
Hector, Johnny, Jets	164	605	3.7	41	8
Williams, John L., Sea.	129	538	4.2	36	0
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	142	536	3.8	18	1
Dickey, Curtis, Cleve.	135	523	3.9	47	6
Kinnebrew, Larry, Cin.	131	519	4.0	39	8
Pruitt, Mike, K.C.	139	448	3.2	16	2
Anderson, Gary, S.D.	127	442	3.5	17	1
James, Craig, N.E.	154	427	2.8	16	4
Collins, Tony, N.E.	156	412	2.6	17	3
Wilson, Stanley, Cin.	68	379	5.6	158	8
Bell, Greg, Buff.	90	377	4.2	42	4
Adams, Curtis, S.D.	118	366	3.1	22	4
Willhite, Gerald, Den.	85	365	4.3	42	5
Bentley, Albert, Ind.	73	351	4.8	170	3

PASSING

RECORDS:

Completions: 378, Dan Marino, Miami (1986)

Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT	RATING
Marino, Dan, Mia.	623	378	60.7	4746	7.62	44	7.1	185	23	3.7	92.5
Krieg, Dave, Sea.	375	225	60.0	2921	7.79	21	5.6	172	11	2.9	91.0
Eason, Tony, N.E.	448	276	61.6	3328	7.43	19	4.2	49	10	2.2	89.2
Esiason, Boomer, Cin.	469	273	58.2	3959	8.44	24	5.1	57	17	3.6	87.7
O'Brien, Ken, Jets	482	300	62.2	3690	7.66	25	5.2	183	20	4.1	85.8
Kosar, Bernie, Cleve.	531	310	58.4	3854	7.26	17	3.2	172	10	1.9	83.8
Kelly, Jim, Buff.	480	285	59.4	3593	7.49	22	4.6	184	17	3.5	83.3
Plunkett, Jim, Raiders	252	133	52.8	1986	7.88	14	5.6	181	9	3.6	82.5
Elway, John, Den.	504	280	55.6	3485	6.91	19	3.8	53	13	2.6	79.0
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	430	252	58.6	3031	7.05	16	3.7	165	22	5.1	71.4
Kenney, Bill, K.C.	308	161	52.3	1922	6.24	13	4.2	53	11	3.6	70.8
Wilson, Marc, Raiders	240	129	53.8	1721	7.17	12	5.0	157	15	6.3	67.4
Malone, Mark, Pitt.	425	216	50.8	2444	5.75	15	3.5	48	18	4.2	62.5
Moon, Warren, Hou.	488	256	52.5	3489	7.15	13	2.7	181	26	5.3	62.3
Trudeau, Jack, Ind.	417	204	48.9	2225	5.34	8	1.9	184	18	4.3	53.3

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Top 100 QB's (1960-1989) (10 of 10)											
Strock, Don, <i>Mia.</i>	20	14	70.0	152	7.60	2	10.0	21	0	0.0	125.4
Grogan, Steve, <i>N.E.</i>	102	62	60.8	976	9.57	9	8.8	169	2	2.0	113.8
Kiel, Blair, <i>Ind.</i>	25	11	44.0	236	9.44	2	8.0	50	0	0.0	104.8
Ryan, Pat, <i>Jets</i>	55	34	61.8	342	6.22	2	3.6	36	1	1.8	84.1
Hogeboom, Gary, <i>Ind.</i>	144	85	59.0	1154	8.01	6	4.2	60	6	4.2	81.2
Gilbert, Gale, <i>Sea.</i>	76	42	55.3	485	6.38	3	3.9	138	3	3.9	71.4
Hilger, Rusty, <i>Raiders</i>	38	19	50.0	266	7.00	1	2.6	54	1	2.6	70.7
Blackledge, Todd, <i>K.C.</i>	211	96	45.5	1200	5.69	10	4.7	170	6	2.8	67.6
Herrmann, Mark, <i>S.D.</i>	97	51	52.6	627	6.46	2	2.1	28	3	3.1	66.8
Kubiak, Gary, <i>Den.</i>	38	23	60.5	249	6.55	1	2.6	26	3	7.9	55.7
Anderson, Ken, <i>Cin.</i>	23	11	47.8	171	7.43	1	4.3	43	2	8.7	51.2
Luck, Oliver, <i>Hou.</i>	60	31	51.7	341	5.68	1	1.7	27	5	8.3	39.7
Brisler, Bubba, <i>Pitt.</i>	60	21	35.0	291	4.85	0	0.0	58	2	3.3	37.6
Flick, Tom, <i>S.D.</i>	73	33	45.2	361	4.95	2	2.7	26	8	11.0	29.9
Reich, Frank, <i>Buff.</i>	19	9	47.4	104	5.47	0	0.0	37	2	10.5	24.8

PUNTING

RECORDS:

Number: 105, Bob Scarpitto, Denver (1967)

Average: 46.2 yards, Dave Lewis, Cincinnati (1970)

Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Stark, Rohn, Ind.	76	3432	63	45.2	5	0	48	502	22	37.2
Roby, Reggie, Mia.	56	2476	73	44.2	9	0	23	200	13	37.4
Camarillo, Rich, N.E.	89	3746	64	42.1	7	3	60	565	16	33.1
Mojsiejenko, Ralf, S.D.	72	3026	62	42.0	11	2	42	368	15	32.9
Gossett, Jeff, Cleve.	83	3423	61	41.2	10	0	44	268	21	35.6
Johnson, Lee, Hou.	88	3623	66	41.2	9	0	40	303	26	35.7
Colbert, Lewis, K.C.	99	4033	56	40.7	6	0	52	572	23	33.7
Kidd, John, Buff.	75	3031	57	40.4	9	0	32	260	14	34.5
Guy, Ray, Raiders	90	3620	64	40.2	11	0	42	357	20	33.8
Newsome, Harry, Pitt.	86	3447	64	40.1	11	3	34	364	18	32.2
Jennings, Dave, Jets	85	3353	55	39.4	6	0	36	165	27	36.1
Gamache, Vince, Sea.	79	3048	55	38.6	7	0	38	298	10	33.0
Hayes, Jeff, Cin.	56	1965	52	35.1	3	2	19	182	11	29.7

(NON-QUALIFIERS)

Leader based on gross average, minimum 40 punts

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD		ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Spencer, Tim, S.D.	99	350	3.5	23	6	Wonsley, George, Ind.	60	214	3.6	46	1
Davenport, Ron, Mia.	75	314	4.2	35	0	Nathan, Tony, Mia.	27	203	7.5	20	0
Green, Boyce, K.C.	90	314	3.5	27	3	Kelly, Jim, Buff.	41	199	4.9	20	0
Heard, Herman, K.C.	71	295	4.2	40	2	McGee, Buford, S.D.	63	187	3.0	20	7
Byner, Earnest, Cleve.	94	277	2.9	37	2	Harmon, Ronnie, Buff.	54	172	3.2	38	0
Elway, John, Den.	52	257	4.9	24	1	Tatupu, Mosi, N.E.	71	172	2.4	13	1
Moriarty, Larry, Hou.-K.C.	90	252	2.8	11	1	Eason, Tony, N.E.	35	170	4.9	26	0
Hawkins, Frank, Raiders	58	245	4.2	15	0	Erenberg, Rich, Pitt.	42	170	4.0	17	1
Smith, Jeff, K.C.	54	238	4.4	132	3	Bennett, Woody, Mia.	36	162	4.5	16	0
Gill, Owen, Ind.	53	228	4.3	18	1	Moon, Warren, Hou.	42	157	3.7	19	2
Johnson, Bill, Cin.	39	226	5.8	34	0	Byrum, Carl, Buff.	38	156	4.1	18	0
Pinkett, Allen, Hou.	77	225	2.9	14	2	Morris, Randall, Sea.	19	149	7.8	149	1
James, Lionel, S.D.	51	224	4.4	24	0	Givins, Earnest, Hou.	9	148	16.4	143	1
Wallace, Ray, Hou.	52	218	4.2	19	3	Esiason, Boomer, Cin.	44	146	3.3	23	1

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OFFICIAL COMMISSIONER'S WEEKLY TEAM REPORT

League: 001232 LESUEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE Date: 10/05/86
TEAM: 03 PAULSEN'S PATRIOTS WEEK: 06

PETE PAULSEN
2222 SOUTHRIDGE DR
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55555

THIS WEEK IN THE LESUEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE:

CHARLIE'S CHARGERS lost to VIC'S VIKINGS
DORT'S DOLPHINS won over PAULSEN'S PATRIOTS
DAVE'S DEMONS won over JIMMIE'S JETS
BOB'S BEARS won over LOU'S LIONS
TONY'S TIGERS won over GARY'S GOONS

SCORES

28 to 34
28 to 26
30 to 28
40 to 28
33 to 27

Bob's Bears won total points with 40 points.

ACCUMULATED TEAM STATISTICS

			Total Points	High Point	Team	Trades
			Starter	Wins	Win Loss Tie	Used
Red	01	DORT'S DOLPHINS	329 181	1	4 2	
	03	PAULSEN'S PATRIOTS	270 123		1 4 1	2
	05	GARY'S GOONS	335 178	1	5 1	5
	07	VIC'S VIKINGS	298 108		3 3	2
	09	LOU'S LIONS	325 184	1	4 2	4
Green	02	JIMMIE'S JETS	482 159	2	6 0	
	04	TONY'S TIGERS	324 132		4 2	3
	06	DAVE'S DEMONS	270 39	1	2 4	1
	08	BOB'S BEARS	244 141		0 6	3
	10	CHARLIE'S CHARGERS	305 187		4 1 1	

RED Division

team	#03	PAULSEN'S PATRIOTS
code	pts	perf
defense	8	6
starter	1840	4
starter	1458	1
starter	1358	1
starter	0584	2
starter	7148	6
starter	2006	6
starter	6640	6
bench	4660	1
bench	6208	2
bench	1482	1
bench	6040	8
bench	4002	7

Red Division

team	#01	DORT'S DOLPHINS
code	pts	perf
defense	8	6
starter	3370	8
starter	4194	8
starter	2298	2
starter	1008	6
starter	6032	4
starter	3562	6
starter	3038	6
bench	5600	4
bench	7580	5
bench	1040	2
bench	1940	4
bench	0742	5

Lineup cards were not received this week for team # -02 -04 -05 -08
Your opponent next week will be BOB'S BEARS in the Green Division.

Team #8 Traded JOHNSON, N. (2872) for ALLEGRE, R. (0376)
Team #8 Traded TURNER, D. (5300) for CHANDLER, W. (1282)
Team #4 Traded BYARS, K. (6640) for STALLWORTH, J. (5068)

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AFCstatistics

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sewell, Steve, Den.	23	123	5.3	15	1
Krieg, Dave, Sea.	35	122	3.5	19	1
Paige, Tony, Jets	47	109	2.3	9	2
Malone, Mark, Pitt.	31	107	3.5	45	5
Fontenot, Herman, Cleve.	25	105	4.2	16	1
Moore, Ricky, Buff.	33	104	3.2	14	1
Lang, Gene, Den.	29	94	3.2	14	1
Hayes, Jeff, Cin.	23	92	30.7	161	1
Pollard, Frank, Pitt.	24	86	3.6	12	0
Banks, Chuck, Hou.	29	80	2.8	9	0
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	4	80	20.0	31	0
Bligen, Dennis, Jets	20	65	3.3	10	1
Blackledge, Todd, K.C.	23	60	2.6	14	0
Weathers, Robert, N.E.	21	58	2.8	116	1
Woolfolk, Butch, Hou.	23	57	2.5	15	0
Jennings, Stanford, Cin.	16	54	3.4	10	1
Strachan, Steve, Raiders	18	53	2.9	10	0
Hilger, Rusty, Raiders	6	48	8.0	16	0
Plunkett, Jim, Raiders	12	47	3.9	11	0
O'Brien, Ken, Jets	17	46	2.7	11	0
Wilson, Marc, Raiders	14	45	3.2	13	0
Everett, Major, Cleve.	12	43	3.6	8	0
Dupard, Reggie, N.E.	15	39	2.6	11	0
Clayton, Mark, Mia.	2	33	16.5	22	0
Brown, Eddie, Cin.	8	32	4.0	17	0
Hughes, David, Pitt.	14	32	2.3	8	0
Mueller, Vance, Raiders	13	30	2.3	8	0
Ryan, Pat, Jets	8	28	3.5	18	0
Barber, Marion, Jets	11	27	2.5	8	0
Williams, Dokie, Raiders	3	27	9.0	19	0
Grogan, Steve, N.E.	9	23	2.6	10	1
Kubiak, Gary, Den.	6	22	3.7	10	0
Trudeau, Jack, Ind.	13	21	1.6	8	1
Hogeboom, Gary, Ind.	10	20	2.0	6	1
Kiel, Blair, Ind.	3	20	6.7	9	0
Reeder, Dan, Pitt.	6	20	3.3	6	0
Kosar, Bernie, Cleve.	24	19	0.8	17	0
Carter, Joe, Mia.	4	18	4.5	9	0
Wilkins, Gary, Buff.	3	18	6.0	11	0
Bell, Ken, Den.	9	17	1.9	12	0
Holt, Harry, Cleve.	1	16	16.0	116	1
Johnson, Vance, Den.	5	15	3.0	6	0
Bouza, Matt, Ind.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Luck, Oliver, Hou.	2	12	6.0	8	0
McNeil, Gerald, Cleve.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Sanders, Chuck, Pitt.	4	12	3.0	13	0
Capers, Wayne, Ind.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Lane, Eric, Sea.	6	11	1.8	4	0
Brister, Bubba, Pitt.	6	10	1.7	9	1
King, Bruce, Buff.	4	10	2.5	7	0
McGee, Tim, Cin.	4	10	2.5	8	0
Gilbert, Gale, Sea.	3	8	2.7	12	0
Ellis, Craig, Mia.	3	6	2.0	2	0
Herrmann, Mark, S.D.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Jackson, Mark, Den.	2	6	3.0	5	0
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	4	5	1.3	12	0
Faola, Nuu, Jets	3	5	1.7	2	0
Flick, Tom, S.D.	6	5	0.8	7	1
Hawthorne, Greg, N.E.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Gaynor, Doug, Cin.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Edwards, Stan, Hou.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Boddie, Tony, Den.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Franklin, Byron, Sea.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Seitz, Warren, Pitt.	3	2	0.7	2	0
Townsell, JoJo, Jets	1	2	2.0	2	0
Oliver, Hubert, Hou.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Slaughter, Webster, Cleve.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Guy, Ray, Raiders	1	0	0.0	0	0
Horan, Mike, Den.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Jennings, Dave, Jets	1	0	0.0	0	0
Kenney, Bill, K.C.	18	0	0.0	9	0
Kidd, John, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Pagel, Mike, Cleve.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Reich, Frank, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Starring, Stephen, N.E.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Strock, Don, Mia.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Mathison, Bruce, S.D.	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Mobley, Orson, Den.	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Paige, Stephane, K.C.	2	-2	-1.0	12	0
Fouts, Dan, S.D.	4	-3	-0.8	0	0
Lipps, Louis, Pitt.	4	-3	-0.8	8	0
Marino, Dan, Mia.	12	-3	-0.3	13	0
Toon, Al, Jets	2	-3	-1.5	2	0

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Broughton, Walter, Buff.	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
Ramsey, Tom, N.E.	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
Jones, Cedric, N.E.	1	-7	-7.0	-7	0
Reed, Andre, Buff.	3	-8	-2.7	4	0
Roby, Reggie, Mia.	2	-8	-4.0	0	0
Duper, Mark, Mia.	1	-10	-10.0	-10	0
Edmonds, Bobby Joe, Sea.	1	-11	-11.0	-11	0
Langhorne, Reggie, Cleve.	1	-11	-11.0	-11	0
Norman, Chris, Den.	1	-11	-11.0	-11	0
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	2	-11	-5.5	-3	0
Collinsworth, Cris, Cin.	2	-16	-8.0	-6	0

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS:

Receptions: 101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964)

Yards: 1,746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961)

TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Christensen, Todd, Raiders	95	1153	12.1	35	8
Toon, Al, Jets	85	1176	13.8	162	8
Morgan, Stanley, N.E.	84	1491	17.8	144	10
Anderson, Gary, S.D.	80	871	10.9	165	8
Collins, Tony, N.E.	77	684	8.9	49	5
Bouza, Matt, Ind.	71	830	11.7	33	5
Largent, Steve, Sea.	70	1070	15.3	138	9
Shuler, Mickey, Jets	69	675	9.8	136	4
Duper, Mark, Mia.	67	1313	19.6	185	11
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	65	1131	17.4	184	8
Hill, Drew, Hou.	65	1112	17.1	181	5
Winslow, Kellen, S.D.	64	728	11.4	128	5
Willhite, Gerald, Den.	64	529	8.3	31	3
Collinsworth, Cris, Cin.	62	1024	16.5	146	10
Givins, Earnest, Hou.	61	1062	17.4	60	3
Hampton, Lorenzo, Mia.	61	446	7.3	19	3
Clayton, Mark, Mia.	60	1150	19.2	168	10
Brown, Eddie, Cin.	58	964	16.6	57	4
Chandler, Wes, S.D.	56	874	15.6	40	4
Brennan, Brian, Cleve.	55	838	15.2	157	6
Brooks, James, Cin.	54	686	12.7	54	4
Hardy, Bruce, Mia.	54	430	8.0	118	5
Reed, Andre, Buff.	53	739	13.9	155	7
Paige, Stephane, K.C.	52	829	15.9	51	11
Walker, Wesley, Jets	49	1016	20.7	183	12
Metzelaars, Pete, Buff.	49	485	9.9	144	3
Riddick, Robb, Buff.	49	468	9.6	131	1
McNeil, Freeman, Jets	49	410	8.4	26	1
Nathan, Tony, Mia.	48	457	9.5	123	2
Fontenot, Herman, Cleve.	47	559	11.9	172	1
Abercrombie, Walter, Pitt.	47	395	8.4	27	2
Marshall, Henry, K.C.	46	652	14.2	31	1
Allen, Marcus, Raiders	46	453	9.8	36	2
Watson, Steve, Den.	45	699	15.5	46	3
Williams, Dokie, Raiders	43	843	19.6	53	8
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	43	737	17.1	169	6
Warner, Curt, Sea.	41	342	8.3	26	0
Slaughter, Webster, Cleve.	40	577	14.4	147	4
Holman, Rodney, Cin.	40	570	14.3	134	2
Langhorne, Reggie, Cleve.	39	678	17.4	66	1
Newsome, Ozzie, Cleve.	39	417	10.7	31	3
Jackson, Mark, Den.	38	738	19.4	53	1
Lipps, Louis, Pitt.	38	590	15.5	48	3
Moore, Nat, Mia.	38	431	11.3	138	7
Baty, Greg, N.E.	37	331	8.9	22	2
Byner, Earnest, Cleve.	37	328	8.9	40	2
Pinkett, Allen, Hou.	35	248	7.1	20	1
Burkett, Chris, Buff.	34	778	22.9	184	4
Stallworth, John, Pitt.	34	466	13.7	140	1
Joiner, Charlie, S.D.	34	440	12.9	33	2
McMillan, Randy, Ind.	34	289	8.5	45	0
Franklin, Byron, Sea.	33	547	16.6	49	2
Hector, Johnny, Jets	33	302	9.2	23	0
Smith, Jeff, K.C.	33	230	7.0	18	3
Williams, John L., Sea.	33	219	6.6	23	0
Johnson, Vance, Den.	31	363	11.7	134	2
Johnson, Trumaine, S.D.	30	399	13.3	30	1
Holohan, Pete, S.D.	29	356	12.3	34	1
Woolfolk, Butch, Hou.	28	314	11.2	30	2
Mack, Kevin, Cleve.	28	292	10.4	44	0
Erenberg, Rich, Pitt.	27	217	8.0	19	3
Winder, Sammy, Den.	26	171	6.6	120	5
Beach, Pat, Ind.	25	265	10.6	26	1
Bentley, Albert, Ind.	25	230	9.2	38	0

l = touchdown

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Hawkins, Frank, Raiders	25	166	6.6	16	0
Hawthorne, Greg, N.E.	24	192	8.0	17	0
Rozier, Mike, Hou.	24	180	7.5	23	0
Hester, Jessie, Raiders	23	632	27.5	181	6
Sewell, Steve, Den.	23	294	12.8	40	1
Moore, Ricky, Buff.	23	184	8.0	27	0
James, Lionel, S.D.	23	173	7.5	18	0
Mobley, Orson, Den.	22	332	15.1	32	1
Skansi, Paul, Sea.	22	271	12.3	30	0
Boyer, Mark, Ind.	22	237	10.8	38	1
Williams, Jamie, Hou.	22	227	10.3	33	1
Harmon, Ronnie, Buff.	22	185	8.4	27	1
Carson, Carlos, K.C.	21	497	23.7	170	4
Sweeney, Calvin, Pitt.	21	337	16.0	58	1
Sampson, Clinton, Den.	21	259	12.3	43	0
Gothard, Preston, Pitt.	21	246	11.7	34	1
Davenport, Ron, Mia.	20	177	8.9	27	1
Arnold, Walt, K.C.	20	169	8.5	27	1
Butler, Raymond, Sea.	19	351	18.5	167	4
Johnson, Dan, Mia.	19	170	8.9	20	4
Green, Boyce, K.C.	19	137	7.2	17	0
Barksdale, Rod, Raiders	18	434	24.1	157	2
Turner, Daryl, Sea.	18	334	18.6	172	7
Drewrey, Willie, Hou.	18	299	16.6	31	0
James, Craig, N.E.	18	129	7.2	17	0
Paige, Tony, Jets	18	121	6.7	18	0
Thompson, Weegie, Pitt.	17	191	11.2	20	5
Wallace, Ray, Hou.	17	177	10.4	135	2
Jackson, Earnest, Pitt.	17	169	9.9	28	0
Heard, Herman, K.C.	17	83	4.9	13	0
Starring, Stephen, N.E.	16	295	18.4	47	2
McGee, Tim, Cin.	16	276	17.3	51	1
Wonsley, George, Ind.	16	175	10.9	60	0
Gill, Owen, Ind.	16	137	8.6	15	0
Butler, Jerry, Buff.	15	302	20.1	53	2
Pruitt, James, Mia.	15	235	15.7	27	2
Kay, Clarence, Den.	15	195	13.0	34	1
Klever, Rocky, Jets	15	150	10.0	21	0
Tice, Mike, Sea.	15	150	10.0	25	0
Tatupu, Mose, N.E.	15	145	9.7	25	0
Jones, Cedric, N.E.	14	222	15.9	28	1
Kinnebrew, Larry, Cin.	13	136	10.5	31	1
Hudson, Gordon, Sea.	13	131	10.1	30	1
Lang, Gene, Den.	13	105	8.1	26	2
Byrum, Carl, Buff.	13	104	8.0	17	1
Johnson, Bill, Cin.	13	103	7.9	17	0
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	13	103	7.9	22	0
Bell, Greg, Buff.	12	142	11.8	140	2
Coffman, Paul, K.C.	12	75	6.3	10	2
Kattus, Eric, Cin.	11	99	9.0	28	1
McGee, Buford, S.D.	10	105	10.5	18	0
Hughes, David, Pitt.	10	98	9.8	22	0
Dickey, Curtis, Clev.	10	78	7.8	12	0
Harry, Emile, K.C.	9	211	23.4	53	1
Capers, Wayne, Ind.	9	118	13.1	27	0
Weathers, Clarence, Clev.	9	100	11.1	16	0
Moriarty, Larry, Hou.-K.C.	9	67	7.4	19	0
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	8	129	16.1	124	2
Wilkins, Gary, Buff.	8	74	9.3	26	0
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	8	69	8.6	16	0
Pruitt, Mike, K.C.	8	56	7.0	13	0
Scott, Willie, N.E.	8	41	5.1	18	3
Banks, Chuck, Hou.	7	71	10.1	17	0
LaFleur, Greg, Ind.	7	56	8.0	11	0
Jennings, Stanford, Cin.	6	86	14.3	34	0
Moffett, Tim, Raiders	6	77	12.8	17	0
Teal, Jimmy, Buff.	6	60	10.0	20	1
Mueller, Vance, Raiders	6	54	9.0	20	0
Spencer, Tim, S.D.	6	48	8.0	15	0
Kreider, Steve, Cin.	5	96	19.2	23	0
Jensen, Jim, Mia.	5	50	10.0	120	1
Barber, Marion, Jets	5	36	7.2	16	0
Smith, Tim, Hou.	4	72	18.0	25	0
Akiu, Mike, Hou.	4	67	16.8	27	0
Hancock, Anthony, K.C.	4	63	15.8	25	0
Holt, Harry, Clev.	4	61	15.3	34	1
Rolle, Butch, Buff.	4	56	14.0	20	0
Harbour, James, Ind.	4	46	11.5	28	0
Wilson, Stanley, Cin.	4	45	11.3	34	0
Bennett, Woody, Mia.	4	33	8.3	13	0
Adams, Curtis, S.D.	4	26	6.5	10	0
Broughton, Walter, Buff.	3	71	23.7	57	0
Martin, Mike, Cin.	3	68	22.7	51	0
Greer, Terry, Clev.	3	51	17.0	22	0

continued

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AFCstatistics

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Richardson, Eric, Buff.	3	49	16.3	32	0
Hackett, Joey, Den.	3	48	16.0	19	0
Sherwin, Tim, Ind.	3	26	8.7	15	1
Lane, Eric, Sea.	3	6	2.0	4	1
Junkin, Trey, Raiders	2	38	19.0	19	0
Williams, Derwin, N.E.	2	35	17.5	26	0
Murray, Walter, Ind.	2	34	17.0	24	0
Tucker, Travis, Clev.	2	29	14.5	16	0
Sanders, Chuck, Pitt.	2	19	9.5	10	0
Pollard, Frank, Pitt.	2	15	7.5	10	0
Sievers, Eric, S.D.	2	14	7.0	9	0
Pattison, Mark, Raiders	2	12	6.0	6	0
Bell, Ken, Den.	2	10	5.0	7	0
Parker, Andy, Raiders	2	8	4.0	6	1
Munoz, Anthony, Cin.	2	7	3.5	15	2
Bligen, Dennis, Jets	2	6	3.0	4	0
Reeder, Dan, Pitt.	2	4	2.0	3	0
Wilson, Steve, Den.	1	43	43.0	143	1
Martin, Robbie, Ind.	1	41	41.0	41	0
Elway, John, Den.	1	23	23.0	123	1
Weather, Robert, N.E.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Townsell, JoJo, Jets	1	11	11.0	11	0
Ware, Timmie, S.D.	1	11	11.0	11	0
McNeil, Gerald, Clev.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Carter, Joe, Mia.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Holloway, Brian, N.E.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Bailey, Edwin, Sea.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Studdard, Dave, Den.	1	2	2.0	12	1
Kosar, Bernie, Clev.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Kenney, Bill, K.C.	1	0	0.0	0	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS:

Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980)

Yards: 349, Charlie McNeil, San Diego (1961)

Longest return: 102 yards

Gary Barbaro, Kansas City (1977)

Louis Breeden, Cincinnati (1981)

TDs: 4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)

4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1972)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Cherry, Deron, K.C.	9	150	16.7	49	0
Lippett, Ronnie, N.E.	8	76	9.5	43	0
McElroy, Vann, Raiders	7	105	15.0	28	0
Breeden, Louis, Cin.	7	72	10.3	136	1
Harden, Mike, Den.	6	179	29.8	52	2
Holmes, Jerry, Jets	6	29	4.8	28	0
Burruss, Lloyd, K.C.	5	193	38.6	172	3
Brown, Dave, Sea.	5	58	11.6	24	1
Byrd, Gill, S.D.	5	45	9.0	18	0
Lyles, Lester, Jets	5	36	7.2	22	0
Lynn, Johnny, Jets	5	36	7.2	26	0
Dixon, Hanford, Clev.	5	35	7.0	19	0
Dale, Jeffery, S.D.	4	153	38.3	50	0
Ross, Kevin, K.C.	4	66	16.5	35	0
Robinson, Jerry, Raiders	4	42	10.5	132	1
Coleman, Leonard, Ind.	4	36	9.0	31	0
Justin, Kerry, Sea.	4	29	7.3	18	0
Romes, Charles, Buff.	4	23	5.8	23	0
Fulcher, David, Cin.	4	20	5.0	15	0
Lewis, Albert, K.C.	4	18	4.5	13	0
Seale, Sam, Raiders	4	2	0.5	2	0
Sanchez, Lupe, Pitt.	3	71	23.7	167	1
Hill, Greg, K.C.	3	64	21.3	126	1
Wright, Louis, Den.	3	56	18.7	56	0
Williams, Eric, Pitt.	3	44	14.7	25	0
Robinson, Eugene, Sea.	3	39	13.0	25	0
Moyer, Paul, Sea.	3	38	12.7	20	0
Wright, Felix, Clev.	3	33	11.0	33	0
Cocroft, Sherman, K.C.	3	32	10.7	13	0
Shell, Donnie, Pitt.	3	29	9.7	17	0
Woods, Rick, Pitt.	3	26	8.7	23	0
Lyday, Allen, Hou.	3	24	8.0	24	0
Lilly, Tony, Den.	3	22	7.3	15	0
Allen, Patrick, Hou.	3	20	6.7	18	0
Minnifield, Frank, Clev.	3	20	6.7	20	0
Clayton, Harvey, Pitt.	3	18	6.0	14	0
Daniel, Eugene, Ind.	3	11	3.7	5	0
Hinkle, Bryan, Pitt.	3	7	2.3	6	0
Clayborn, Ray, N.E.	3	4	1.3	4	0
Rose, Don, Mia.	2	63	31.5	36	0
Marion, Fred, N.E.	2	56	28.0	137	1
Burroughs, Derrick, Buff.	2	49	24.5	41	0
McNeal, Don, Mia.	2	46	23.0	29	0
McGrew, Larry, N.E.	2	44	22.0	27	0
Rockins, Chris, Clev.	2	41	20.5	24	0
Foley, Steve, Den.	2	39	19.5	24	0

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
James, Roland, N.E.	2	39	19.5	21	0
Brown, Steve, Hou.	2	34	17.0	38	0
Easley, Ken, Sea.	2	34	17.0	24	0
Glenn, Vencie, S.D.	2	31	15.5	31	0
Haynes, Mike, Raiders	2	28	14.0	22	0
Toran, Stacey, Raiders	2	28	14.0	19	0
O'Neal, Leslie, S.D.	2	22	11.0	17	1
Nelson, Steve, N.E.	2	21	10.5	17	0
Eason, Bo, Hou.	2	16	8.0	11	0
Hicks, Dwight, Ind.	2	16	8.0	16	0
Merriweather, Mike, Pitt.	2	14	7.0	11	0
Ellis, Ray, Clev.	2	12	6.0	7	0
Matthews, Clay, Clev.	2	12	6.0	8	0
Bickett, Duane, Ind.	2	10	5.0	10	0
Blackwood, Glenn, Mia.	2	10	5.0	7	0
Scholtz, Bruce, Sea.	2	10	5.0	10	0
Clifton, Kyle, Jets	2	8	4.0	7	0
Barker, Leo, Cin.	2	7	3.5	7	0
Barnes, Jeff, Raiders	2	7	3.5	7	0
Hayes, Lester, Raiders	2	7	3.5	7	0
Johnson, Richard, Hou.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Judson, William, Mia.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Lyles, Robert, Hou.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Taylor, Terry, Sea.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Holt, John, Ind.	1	80	80.0	80	0
Rembert, Johnny, N.E.	1	37	37.0	37	0
Adams, Stefan, Raiders	1	32	32.0	32	0
Harper, Mark, Clev.	1	31	31.0	31	0
Hamilton, Harry, Jets	1	29	29.0	29	0
Crabbe, Bob, Jets	1	26	26.0	26	0
Spani, Gary, K.C.	1	24	24.0	24	0
Brown, Donald, S.D.	1	23	23.0	23	0
Hunley, Ricky, Den.	1	22	22.0	22	0
Radicic, Scott, K.C.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Bussey, Barney, Cin.	1	19	19.0	19	0
Zander, Carl, Cin.	1	18	18.0	18	0
Martin, Rod, Raiders	1	15	15.0	15	0
Bellinger, Rodney, Buff.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Blackwood, Lyle, Mia.	1	14	14.0	14	0
Offerdahl, John, Mia.	1	14	14.0	14	0
McKenzie, Reggie, Raiders	1	9	9.0	9	0
Gaines, Greg, Sea.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Hand, Jon, Ind.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Kelly, Joe, Cin.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Dennison, Rick, Den.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Armstrong, Havey, Ind.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Horton, Ray, Cin.	1	4	4.0	4	0
Brown, Bud, Mia.	1	3	3.0	3	0
McSwain, Rod, N.E.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Smerlas, Fred, Buff.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Charles, Mike, Mia.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Cooks, Johnie, Ind.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Bayless, Martin, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Bostic, Keith, Hou.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Daniel, Kenny, Ind.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Donaldson, Jeff, Hou.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Freeman, Steve, Buff.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Hackett, Dino, K.C.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Kozlowski, Mike, Mia.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Smith, Dennis, Den.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Taylor, Ken, S.D.	1	0	0.0	0	0
Wilson, Steve, Den.	1	-5	-5.0	-5	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS:

Number: 55, Bruce Harper, New York (1978, 1979)

55, David Turner, Cincinnati (1979)

Yards: 1,317, Bobby Jancik, Houston (1963)

Longest: 106 yards, Noland Smith, Kansas City (1967)

TDs: 3, Ray Clayborn, New England (1977)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sanchez, Lupe, Pitt.	25	591	23.6	64	0
McGee, Tim, Cin.	43	1007	23.4	94	0
Humphrey, Bobby, Jets	28	655	23.4	196	1
Bell, Ken, Den.	23	531	23.1	42	0
Lang, Gene, Den.	21	480	22.9	42	0
Edmonds, Bobby Joe, Sea.	34	764	22.5	46	0
Starring, Stephen, N.E.	36	802	22.3	52	0
Ellis, Craig, Mia.	25	541	21.6	41	0
Bentley, Albert, Ind.	32	687	21.5	37	0
Adams, Stefan, Raiders	27	573	21.2	51	0
McNeil, Gerald, Clev.	47	997	21.2	1100	1
Morris, Randall, Sea.	23	465	20.2	38	0
Anderson, Gary, S.D.	24	482	20.1	35	0
Drewrey, Willie, Hou.	25	500	20.0	32	0
Pinkett, Allen, Hou.	26	519	20.0	48	0

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Smith, Jeff, K.C.	29	557	19.2	29	0
Martin, Robbie, Ind.	21	385	18.3	27	0
Walker, Fulton, Raiders	23	368	16.0	27	0

NON-QUALIFIERS (4 or more)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Harmon, Ronnie, Buff.	18	321	17.8	32	0
James, Lionel, S.D.	18	315	17.5	31	0
Davenport, Ron, Mia.	16	285	17.8	37	0
Townsell, JoJo, Jets	13	322	24.8	193	1
Jennings, Stanford, Cin.	12	257	21.4	41	0
Tasker, Steve, Hou-Buff.	12	213	17.8	24	0
Broughton, Walter, Buff.	11	243	22.1	39	0
Green, Boyce, K.C.	10	254	25.4	197	1
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	10	192	19.2	33	0
Hampton, Lorenzo, Mia.	9	182	20.2	25	0
Carter, Joe, Mia.	9	133	14.8	22	0
Riddick, Robb, Buff.	8	200	25.0	49	0
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	8	183	22.9	59	0
Sanders, Chuck, Pitt.	8	148	18.5	29	0
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	8	148	17.9	24	0
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	7	124	17.7	36	0
Fontenot, Herman, Clev.	7	99	14.1	19	0
Harper, Michael, Jets	7	71	10.1	19	0
Richardson, Eric, Buff.	6	123	20.5	28	0
Harry, Emile, K.C.	6	115	19.2	26	0
Daniel, Kenny, Ind.	5	109	21.8	30	0
Adams, Curtis, S.D.	5	100	20.0	25	0
Carson, Carlos, K.C.	5	88	17.6	29	0
Spencer, Tim, S.D.	5	81	16.2	21	0
Wyatt, Kevin, S.D.	5	74	14.8	23	0
Gill, Owen, Ind.	5	73	14.6	28	0
Martin, Mike, Cin.	4	83	20.8	21	0
Moriarty, Larry, K.C.	4	80	20.0	23	0
Jones, Cedric, N.E.	4	63	15.8	20	0
Langhorne, Reggie, Clev.	4	57	14.3	20	0
Reeder, Dan, Pitt.	4	52	13.0	17	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS:

Number: 62, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

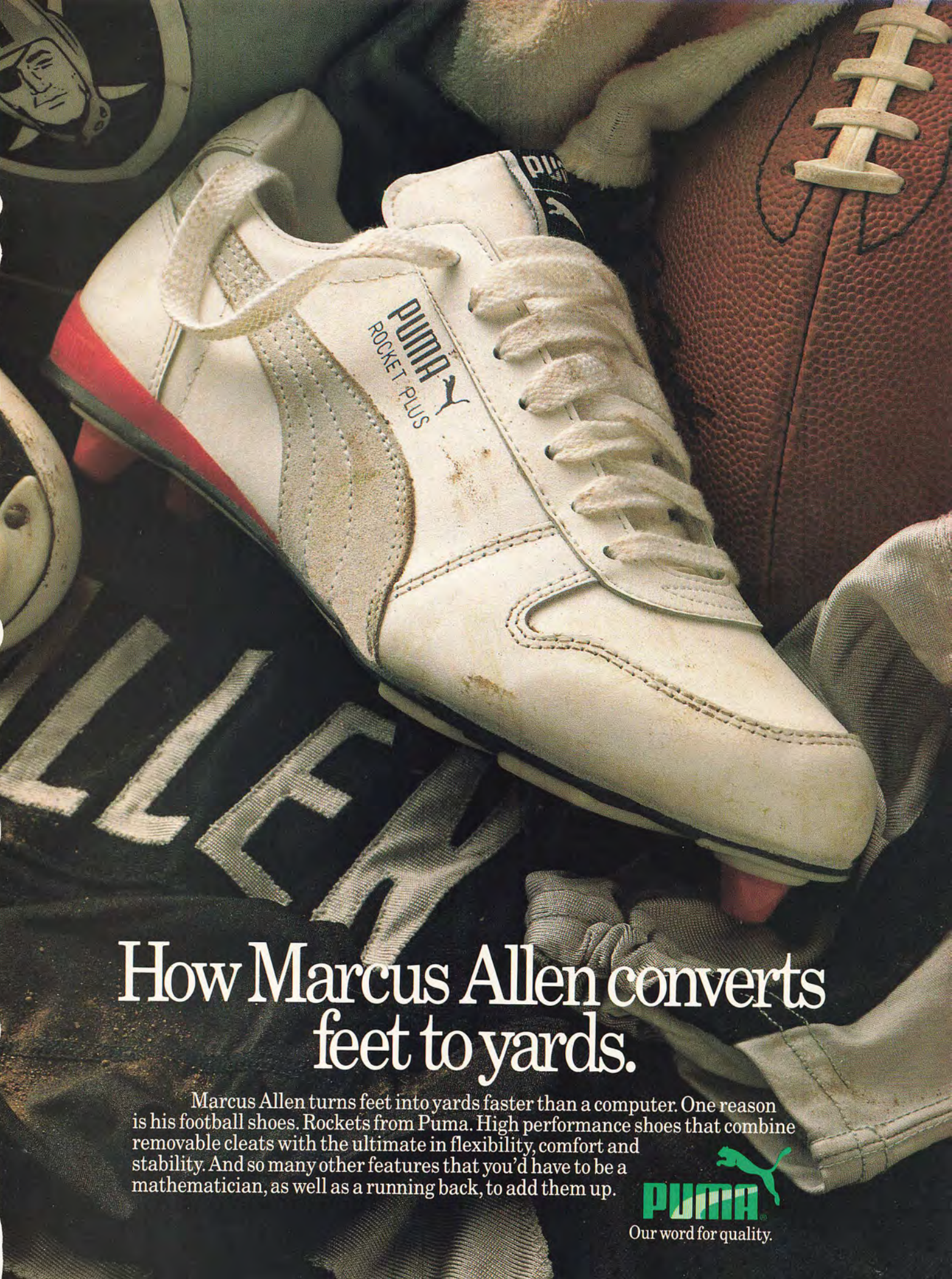
Yards: 692, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Longest for TD: 97 yards, Greg Pruitt, Los Angeles (1983)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Edmonds, Bobby Joe, Sea.	34	14	419	12.3	175	1
Willhite, Gerald, Den.	42	8	468	11.1	170	1
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	35	10	366	10.5	159	1
Anderson, Gary, S.D.	25	10	227	9.1	30	0
Walker, Fulton, Raiders	49	15	440	9.0	170	1
Woods, Rick, Pitt.	33	12	294	8.9	41	0
McNeil, Gerald, Clev.	40	10	348	8.7	184	1
Smith, Jeff, K.C.	29	11	245	8.4	48	0
Sohn, Kurt, Jets	35	8	289	8.3	27	0
Drewrey, Willie, Hou.	34	13	262	7.7	25	0
Ellis, Craig, Mia.	24	1	149	6.2	17	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Pitts, Ron, Buff.	18	11	194	10.8	149	1
Brooks, Bill, Ind.	18	7	141	7.8	18	0
Martin, Robbie, Ind.	17	7	109	6.4	25	0
Martin, Mike, Cin.	13	6	96	7.4	14	0
Broughton, Walter, Buff.	12	2	53	4.4	13	0



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